

Hospital chiefs looking to save £10.5m over one year

AXE TO FALL ON 50 MANOR JOBS

Report by Craig Hughes

THE trust which runs Walsall Manor Hospital is to cut almost 50 posts as it plans to save £10.5 million this year, it has emerged

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust is looking to claw back cash through its cost-improvement plan for 2015/16.

As part of its annual plan the equivalent of 48 roles are expected to be lost, although health bosses insist the overall number of staff will increase due to the agreed investment in nurses.

The trust set a savings target of £13m last year but is targeting £10.5m over the next 12 months. It has not been revealed at this stage where posts will be axed.

It comes as the hospital has been battling to bring its finances under control amid rising demand which has led to expenditure on agency nurses. This will be cut during £3.5m plans to bring in more than 85 new permanent nurses.

The annual report states: "We are forecasting a reduction in posts of 48.19 whole-time equivalent in order to deliver our cost-improvement programme."

"We are investing in new posts to support the safer staffing initiative, our quality agenda and activity growth; the net change in the workforce forecast therefore is an overall increase of 11.33 for 2015/16."

Standards

It adds: "Investment within nursing and clinical support worker posts will substantively meet the required standards for ward staffing especially on medical wards and at night."

Overall, the health trust expects to have more than 3,950 workers in place by next April.

Problems have been growing at the Manor with increasing demand from patients. The Manor has a backlog of patients waiting for elective care and it is expected to grow during the next 12 months.

Emergency admissions have risen as the hospital struggles to reach the four-hour A&E target of 95 per cent.

It has also found it difficult to hit targets for the number of patients transferred to the department from ambulances in 15 minutes.

It had been hoped to see nurses recruited from Ireland in an attempt to get new staff in quicker, but this has not materialised.

Walsall Healthcare trust's director of nursing Kathryn Halford said: "No nurses in Ireland want to come, but there are some in Greece, Italy and possibly Spain who have shown interest." Overseas interviews are set to go ahead in May and June.

● Black hole – Page 3

Eggs-treme workouts help hospital youngsters



Reboot camp, which gave Easter eggs to the young patients, front, from left, Matt Jukes, from Walsall, and personal trainer Tom Clifford

IT was an eggs-cellent workout at a fitness camp in Walsall – with chocolate treats donated to unwell youngsters. The Reboot Camp was offering a free workout in exchange for eggs to be given to young hospital patients.

Participants with the support of friends and families helped to collect more than 130 chocolate goodies to be taken to children's wards at Walsall Manor and City Hospital. It was organised as part of an open event through personal trainer Thomas Clifford, who holds regular boot camps at the Arboretum.

The 35 year-old lost seven stone in two

years, which prompted him to take up a role in teaching fitness. Sessions include squats, lunges, press-ups to using a tug-of-war rope.

The former visual communication student at University of Birmingham said the idea of handing over eggs for a good cause had gone down well. Up to 30 people attended on Saturday morning, more than the usual amount of near 20 who go for the 45-minute workout.

Mr Clifford, of Charlotte Street, Chukery, said: "I was a customer at a local boot camp and I lost seven stone over two years. I came out of it and thought I might as well start one

myself." He added everyone had supported the delivery of eggs to the hospitals.

"It was like 'if you are going to get Easter eggs you can, but if you want to remove the temptation and make it go to a good cause bring it to the event.' The sessions are for people aged 16 and above, but for the event on Saturday children were able to take part in a fun warm up. The workouts usually take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday at 9.30am and 7pm. There is also one on a Saturday from 9.30am. For more information visit the www.re-boot-camp.co.uk website.

EDUCATION

Students manage to put on charity nights

STUDENTS at a Midland college have had their first taste of running public events after organising a range of themed charity nights. Hospitality management students at Walsall College put on the events at Jerome's Restaurant at Wisemore Campus.

As part of their course, they were tasked with working in teams to arrange a series of events to raise money for their chosen charities. They came up with a masquerade dinner, an Alice in Wonderland themed tea party and a quiz night. More than £700 was raised across the three events.

TRAVEL

Joy for Amena as passport arrives

A SCHOOLGIRL is celebrating after her new passport was delivered to her home seven months after the application was sent. Teenager Amena Whyte, aged 15, missed out on school trips and family holidays due to the delay.

Now she has her sights set on a long-awaited holiday to Jamaica to celebrate her parents' 30th wedding anniversary later this year.

The family, of Emery Street, Highgate enlisted ex-Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz's help to resolve the issue.

CRIME

ID call with warning over rogue traders

RESIDENTS are being told to always ask for ID to avoid becoming a victim of rogue traders. With the warmer weather there is a risk of more offers for gardening, driveway work or TV aerial repairs.

Lorraine Boothman, Walsall's interim trading standards manager, said: "We want our residents to stop feeling pressurised and to know what steps to take if someone knocks on their door unexpectedly. The first step is always to check identification and if necessary contact the company in question."

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INSIDE SIKH FESTIVAL BIG TURNOUT



PAGE 8

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CONTENTS	
PETER RHODES	4
LETTERS	8
MEMORY LANE	14
WHAT'S ON	23
PROPERTY	29
MOTORING	35
CLASSIFIED	37
SPORT	43-44
CONTACT US	

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Stillborn baby photo will be allowed



Amy with a picture of Archie

THE picture of a stillborn baby will be fitted to his gravestone after more than 1,000 people signed a petition calling for cemetery officials to allow it.

Amy Hopson and Warren Hobbs wanted to put a photograph of their son Archie on the memorial in Willenhall Lawn Cemetery, but were initially told by bosses it would not be allowed.

Walsall Council said the photograph of the baby, who was stillborn at New Cross Hospital in December 2013, would upset visiting mourners.

Staff said that if an image of the baby was added it should be covered up most

of the time, and suggested that a small hinged door be attached so the family could see the picture when they visit.

But after the petition against the decision attracted 1,077 signatures the council had a change of heart and sent a letter of apology to the couple for the distress caused.

Miss Hopson, aged 26, of Castlebridge Gardens, Wednesfield, said the decision was a victory for common sense.

She said: "I had a phone call from someone at the council who apologised to us, and said that we could proceed. Then we had a letter to confirm that we

were being allowed to install Archie's photo. They initially told us that it would upset other mourners, but I said other mourners are not going to mourn our baby."

"We're mourning him, it's for our benefit and he is in the memorial area set aside for babies."

She said Archie's photograph looks like a baby sleeping and having spoken to other parents said no-one else found it distressing. Miss Hopson, who has a son Joseph, four, and her partner Warren, 25, are expecting a baby that is due later this year.

Tesco puts land next to superstore up for sale

TESCO is putting up for sale more than two acres of development land next to its superstore in Willenhall as part of a move expected to raise millions of pounds.

The land next to the Keyway Retail Park is one of six Tesco sites around the country that the stores giant is aiming to sell.

Another is the former Royal Hospital site in Wolverhampton, which had been lined up for a £65 million superstore redevelopment until the crisis-hit supermarket retailer pulled the plug on a string of future developments earlier this year.

The grocer, struggling with falling profits and a repercussions of a £263 million accounting scandal, has appointed property agency Savills to handle the sale of the sites.

Among them is the Monaco House Complex in Birmingham and sites in Leeds city centre, Burton-on-Trent and Doncaster.

New chief executive Dave Lewis has slashed Tesco's plans for new stores.

The company will open just 170,000 sq ft of shop space this year, which is less than a fifth of the area budget rival Aldi aims to expand into as part of its own growth plans.

Tesco sees selling off 'non-core land' like the Wolverhampton site as a way of raising much-needed funds at the same time as it has pulled 49 development plans and announced the closure of 43 stores nationwide.

Covert cameras to identify fly-tippers

SECRET spy cameras will be used to tackle fly-tipping in Walsall under new plans revealed by the council.

Walsall Council has spent £345,000 cleaning up rubbish dumped in the borough over the last two years and bosses now want to spend £4,000 on eight devices to covertly record offenders.

Each will be positioned in dumping hotspots around Walsall in the next few months and moved around to cope with demand. Some of the council cash will also be used to pay for hides, filters, lenses, batteries and for the cameras, which will be disguised to blend in with their surroundings.

The council currently uses Domehawk cameras which are fitted onto lamp posts but they are clearly visible. Walsall Council leader Sean Coughlan said the new cameras would be much harder to spot.

He said: "These cameras are new to us. We use the Domehawk cameras at the moment but they can be seen as they are put on lamp posts. These new cameras can be moved around to different areas, to the hotspots where they are needed."

The cameras will gather important indisputable evidence and help increase prosecutions, bosses say. Figures from the authority show that items including bags of rubbish and commercial waste were dumped on more than 5,000 occasions between 2012 and 2014.

Hotspots across the borough include Goscote Lodge Crescent and Slacky Lane. Commercial waste is continuing to be dumped in both streets.

Another site attracting unwanted illegal dumping of waste is the site of the former Cavalcade pub in Stroud Avenue, Willenhall. A report to the North Walsall area panel, which met in the week, says it has been happening on a weekly basis.

Walsall Council is having to make cuts to the budget of £39million over the next year as part of the £85m it needs to save over the next four years. Up to 200 jobs are being axed, some children's centres are closing and council tax has been increased by 1.99 per cent.

It is hoped money obtained from the court fines of any prosecutions made using evidence from cameras will help recoup the costs of buying and installing them.

GP retires after 40 years in medicine



Dr Albert Benjamin retires from the Little London Surgery, in Caldmore, after 40 years working in the NHS

A DOCTOR at a surgery in Walsall has hung up his stethoscope following a 40-year career in medicine - with not a single sick day to his name

Dr Albert Benjamin, who joined Little London Surgery in Caldmore in 1992, has helped thousands of patients. And he still intends to carry out minor surgery at local GP practices during his retirement.

The 64-year-old was born and raised in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in West Africa, and came to the

UK in 1969 to study medicine at Cambridge University, qualifying in 1975.

He trained as a surgeon and began to practise trauma and orthopaedic surgery in Edinburgh and hospitals in the Midlands.

The father-of-three then stepped into a GP role at the Little London Surgery.

His colleagues and patients have showered him with gifts of books, chocolates and cards to mark his retirement.

Dr Benjamin, of Solihull, said: "It was my childhood ambition to become a doctor."

"I've been enormously privileged to be a doctor. You learn a lot about yourself. You have to provide guidance, support and treatment as best you can. I've been extremely lucky not to have had one sick day in my career in the NHS."

"I will miss the staff and the patients and I will miss just being a part of the life of families in the community."

Connections at expo are made

MORE than 130 people joined in a business networking event in Walsall to help enterprises to boost their profile.

The Walsall Connects Business Expo is the brainchild of The Best of Walsall website and Gone Fishing 4 Business.

Trade stands and advice teams were available at the exhibition evening held at the town's Forest Arts Centre, in Hawbush Road, Leamore, last month.

Joint organiser Chris Towe, of Gone Fishing 4 Business, said: "It's the second time that we've run this expo and it went very well. About 132 delegates turned up on the day which was fabulous as far as we're concerned because it gave businesses an opportunity to show what they're doing and to promote their goods and services."

"We will be doing it again."

Town's history to be subject of talk

NORTON Canes Historical Society holds its next meeting on Tuesday. The speaker is Cliff Kirby-Tibbitts, with a talk on The History of Walsall. The venue for the meeting, which starts at 7pm, is Norton Canes Library, in Burntwood Road. Admission is free.

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Black hole for Manor is set out as £17.7m

WALSALL Manor Hospital is braced for a £17.7 million black hole this year – as the hospital's bosses battle to bring finances under control.

The trust which runs the hospital has faced increasing pressures which has led to a £12.9m deficit over the last 12 months.

But bosses are preparing for a further cash crisis during this new financial year and are already anticipating a £17.7m deficit, aided by the backlog of problems including an overspend on temporary staff.

This was despite a £200,000 cut in spending on bank, agency and locum staff from January to February, which left a £1.56m bill.

The position has been revealed as part of the annual plan for 2015/16 and comes as the hospital has been under growing demand from patients and faced with increasing costs. The Manor has a backlog of patients waiting for elective care and it is expected to grow during the next 12 months.

The Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust plan says: "Partly as a result of our major operational pressures that required us to spend more money on temporary staff than we had planned, our financial position deteriorated considerably in the year."

It adds: "The trust has faced a 'perfect storm' of problems in 2014/15 that have left us with major operational performance and financial issues to be addressed in 2015/16." Emergency admissions at the Manor have rocketed by more than a quarter in the last two years.

66 new homes on way for over 55s

A TOTAL of 66 new homes are being planned in Bloxwich under fresh development plans, it has emerged.

Walsall Housing Group is looking to create 33 one-bedroom and another 33 two-bed apartments for over 55s.

It forms part of a Wellbeing scheme in Carl Street and is subject to approval the building work could start in September. It is anticipated it would take two years to complete.

Regeneration chief, councillor Mohammed Nazir, backed steps to bring more homes into the borough. He said: "In that area of Walsall, there is bigger demand than supply. As long as there are new homes built for the residents of Walsall I welcome it."

Residents can comment on the plans at www.whg.uk.com

Canalside walk for ramblers

THE Walsall group of the ramblers will be heading to Norbury Junction, near Gnosall, for an eight mile walk on Sunday. Non members are welcome and should contact the walk leader for details on 01922 621148.

Widower raises hundreds for hospital



Tim Evans seen with his wife Sally

THE widower of a patient who suffered a brain tumour for over four years has raised hundreds of pounds for the hospital that treated her.

Tim Evans took part in a sponsored walk, journeying from his home in Walsall to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, where his wife Sally was treated, and back again.

A team of 18 took part in the walk, including Tim's young daughter and family friends, and raised over £650 for QEHB Charity, which supports patients at the QE hospital.

Tim said: "We decided to organise

a sponsored walk to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham in memory of my wife, Sally Evans. Sally was diagnosed with a Pinealblastoma brain tumour in 2010 and was treated by the neurosurgical and oncology team at the hospital for over four and a half years.

"During this time Sally underwent surgery, radiotherapy and was one of the first to be treated by the revolutionary CyberKnife for her tumours. The care she received from the whole team at the QE was outstanding. Although she is no longer with us, their

care made it possible for Sal to live on with me and her two children for nearly five years. We are delighted to have raised so much for QEHB Charity and with more donations coming in we hope to reach our £1,000 target."

Abi Cligg, Fundraising Officer at QEHB Charity, said: "We are incredibly grateful to Tim, and everyone who took part in the sponsored walk, for their support."

To support patients with a donation please call the charity team on 0121 371 4852.

Jobs secured as metals firm gets nod to expand

A MANUFACTURING firm in Willenhall will expand its base after plans poised to safeguard jobs and create new roles were approved.

Croft Architectural Hardware, based between Lower Lichfield Street and Middle Piece Way, manufactures a range of brass and bronze door and window fittings and has been based in the town since it formed in 1972.

Bosses say in order for the company to grow it must expand its manufacturing areas and the plans are expected to create nearly a dozen jobs over the next few years.

Permission has been given to build an extension onto the factory of 2,798sq ft.

The planning application states: "The company manufactures a range of brass and bronze door and window fittings and is well known throughout the trade for the high quality items that they produce."

"To meet the future growth of the company it is necessary to expand the manufacturing areas. New CNC lathes and a matching centre are needed for the future and the new building is required to house them."

Safeguard

"The extra space and more modern machinery will not only safeguard the jobs of the existing workforce but will create work for possibly up to five extra staff."

The scheme includes replacing derelict buildings and the extension will be a steel portal frame building. The number of parking spaces will also increase from 15 to 20, and new disabled and cycle spaces will be made available.

The company has been located at its present site since 1987, having extended the original premises to meet growing needs.

More jobs could be on the way in Willenhall as other firms have announced their own expansion plans in recent months.

It was recently announced that parcel delivery firm Yodel was looking to create more HGV parking spaces next to its sorting centre on the Willenhall and Darlaston border, with a view to creating more jobs. Tailored Care, a care company looking after elderly and vulnerable adults in their homes, recently set up in the town and has started recruiting carers and office workers.

Transport firm Aspray24 is also looking to increase the size of its head office in Noose Lane which could bring new roles.



Bottom is the Rushall May Princess, Laila Hayward, aged nine, and top, the queen for the event which is held on May 5, Leia Shaw, 10

Royal pair are ready for reign

WITH their tiaras are at the ready, these two royals-in-waiting are gearing up to start their reigns next month as the new May Queen and Princess of Rushall.

Leia Shaw, aged 10, and nine-year-old Laila Hayward, have been chosen to represent their home town at the May fayre, which will take place at Rushall playing fields in Rowley Place on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4.

The girls were chosen by way of a 'lucky dip'. Rushall May Fayre committee chairwoman Sue Blakemore said: "We feel it's the fairest way to do it, especially given the girls' ages."

Preparations are well under way for the popular annual celebration which is expected to attract more than 1,000 people to join in the festivities.

The fun will include traditional maypole and morris dancing, sea shanties from the Lichfield Lighthouse Company, 27-year-old local singer Carla Yates, a falconry display and visits from West Midlands Fire Service, Air Ambulance, and the Army and Air Force Cadets.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sessions to help store jobs hopes

JOB hunters are being urged to sign up for information sessions to improve their chances of landing posts at two new Walsall town centre stores.

Some 170 roles will be created at Primark and the Midcounties Co-op Food that are being built in the Old Square Shopping Centre.

Residents looking for work are being urged to book places at workshops. The 150 Primark positions will be advertised from April 16. Potential employees interested in working for either store should email their CV to walsallworks@walsall.gov.uk

Ambulance use in fall at Manor

THE number of patients taken by ambulance to Walsall Manor Hospital fell by more than 300 in a month, latest figures have shown.

There were 2,556 people taken to Walsall Manor in January which dropped down to 2,214 during February.

It meant the number of patients who waited longer than the 15-minute target to be transferred to hospital from ambulance also reduced.

There were 15 people who waited an hour or more compared to 38 in the month before.

Green light for teaching block

PLANS to build a multi-million pound teaching block at a Walsall Academy have been given the go-ahead. The £3.5m, three storey block will create 21 new classrooms at Joseph Leckie.

Councillors approved the plans on Thursday and construction work will now begin at the site on Walstead Road, Delves later this month.

The Government funded revamp will replace run down classrooms and will be completed in March 2016. The school became an academy in 2012.

Darlaston Town in new base proposal

BOSSSES at a historic football club, which was reformed following a huge community fundraising effort, have applied to create a new base at a council-owned social club.

Darlaston Town (1874) FC took over the running of Bentley Leisure Pavilion, in Bentley Road North, Walsall, from the council in January.

The new business proposal will be outlined at the club's AGM on April 14 ahead of being considered by the Walsall Council's cabinet on April 29.

Decision on centre

THE future of a council building that residents want to keep for health and community facilities will be considered by chiefs. Walsall Council's cabinet committee delayed making a decision on selling off Broadway North Centre last month. It is expected to be on the agenda on April 29.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



ONE thing I know from a reliable source is that some charity shops suffer huge losses from shoplifting. Scum does not even begin to describe them.

MY recent item about the woman on Antiques Roadshow who bought a necklace from a charity shop for £5 and had it valued at up to £6,000 brings much dark muttering. There is a persistent rumour that charity-shop workers get the pick of the goods. Is it true? Or is it just a tale put about by people who have never given the time and effort to work in such places?

WHILE the rest of the cast in The Ark have the usual Genesis beards and straggly hair, young Kenan (Nico Mirallegro) has an authentic 2015 boy-band haircut. And lo, in those days did Kenan, son of Noah, go forth unto the House of Salon and saith unto the barber therein: "Number four all over, mate, and tapered neck."

REMEMBER the shirt I bought on the internet which generated no fewer than six emails from the makers? Make that eight. I've had two sales pitches, including one offering me the chance to "stay wrinkle-free all day." Frankly, that would take more than a shirt.

A READER writes: "I have developed a way of dealing with people who say Jeremy Clarkson should not have been sacked. I call them a lazy **** and punch them in the mouth."

IT is a very rare thing for anyone to resign voluntarily from the House of Lords, the best club on London, but for whatever reasons, Lord Ashcroft has. His departure releases one bottom-space in that over-packed citadel of hot air where 800 peers pontificate. In a sane system there would be no more than a couple of hundred. Farewell, Lord Ashcroft. One down, 600 to go.

PLANNING ahead. A reader who recently fixed an NHS appointment for August received a "change of appointment letter" this week. The appointment is still on the same date in August, but just five minutes later. As she says: "What a waste of time, effort and NHS funds." Especially as we all know the appointment will be late anyway.

YOU would think from the reviews of Poldark (BBC1) that it was all about acres of nudity. In truth it's all very restrained. Yet the weekly focus on the groping means that some superb moments go unremarked. So let's hear it for Ruby Bentall, as Verity Poldark, having a friendly chat with Demelza (Eleanor Tomlinson) who suddenly turns the conversation to how, when she and Ross are a-bed, she pleases him. Prim little Verity almost has what used to be called a fit of the vapours. Priceless.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Charity's four-year milestone boost

A WALSALL charity celebrates its fourth anniversary and a local voluntary group has donated thousands of pounds to mark the occasion. Sister Dora Friends Group is a long-term supporter of St Giles Walsall Hospice and its members work tirelessly to raise money for the charity. To mark the charity's fourth birthday the Sister Dora Friends Group handed over a cheque for £9,500 – the total amount they have raised in the past year.

Clive Bradley, Chairman of the group, said: "The people in the Walsall catchment area have been absolutely tremendous and if it was not for their generosity we would not be where we are today. "We are so happy to be able to hand over a cheque to St Giles Walsall Hospice. The staff there are just brilliant – they always seem to go that extra mile. A lot of our members have lost someone to cancer so they are passionate about collecting money for St Giles Walsall Hospice. St Giles Walsall Hospice is a registered charity which provides free specialist care for people living with cancer and other serious illnesses. The total annual running costs of St Giles Walsall Hospice are £1.6 million and with only half of this amount funded by the NHS, the charity relies heavily on donations and income generation from the local community to raise £800,000 a year.

Community Fundraising Manager for St Giles Hospice, Sharon White, said: "We are incredibly grateful to have their support year after year. To receive a cheque for £9,500 from the Sister Dora Friends Group has been an extra special birthday present." To join the Sister Dora Friends Group, or to make a donation to the hospice via the group, please contact Sharon White on 01922 602520 or email sharon.white@walsall.nhs.uk



Members of the Sister Dora Friends Group with Sharon White, at the front, community fundraising manager, St Giles Hospice

Officers in pickpocket crackdown on transport

PLAIN-CLOTHES police will be keeping an eye out for pickpockets on the buses, trains and trams over the next few weeks.

Operation PutPocket will see officers from the Safer Travel Team patrolling the transport network.

Inspector Lee Gordon said: "It is very easy for people to become distracted and leave their bag open or valuables unattended and before they know it someone has stolen from them. By taking a few simple precautions they can make it too hard for the criminals to take the risk and our officers will be looking out to help anyone they feel is a potential target."

After identifying themselves to passenger they feel are at risk of being targeted, officers will explain why they have been approached and offer advice.

Security

Police will be issuing leaflets explaining how pickpockets work and what people should do to make it harder for the crooks to operate, and will also be handing out karabiner clips and security bells which fasten to items such as purses, and can then either be secured in a person's bag or make a noise if they are moved.

PutPocket is running in tandem with an anti-pickpocket campaign being carried out by West Midlands Police in shopping centres.

Pop music festival scouting for bands

ORGANISERS of a popular music festival want more acts to apply to perform. Bands on the Beacon, which attracts thousands of visitors, has secured 14 acts for the festival.

More up-and-coming bands and entertainers are wanted for the second stage zone for the family-friendly event that is being held over two days for the first time.

Musicians keen to perform should send clips, CDs or links or video links to the Bands on the Beacon Facebook page. For more details about the event go to www.walsall.gov.uk

Charges have been introduced for the first time in the event's five-year history – £4 for adults and 'kids for a quid'.

The event will be held at Barr Beacon on June 27 and 28. It comes as £440,000 Heritage Lottery Funding has run out.

Event to tackle global poverty

A CHARITY event will be held at a church in Walsall to raise money for an organisation tackling poverty across the world. It will feature music, a raffle and craft stalls at St Lawrence Church Hall, Darlaston on May 16 at 3pm. Money goes to the Tearfund charity.

Body of pensioner, 84, is found in town canal

Report by Craig Hughes

THE body of missing 84 year-old Sidney Edlin has been found in a canal in Walsall.

The great-great grandfather was discovered in the Wyrley & Essington canal by a member of the public.

Police have confirmed the death of Mr Edlin who was last seen at his home in Rowlands Avenue, Bentley, last Thursday is not being treated as suspicious.

The grim find was made near Leamore Lane at around 10.50am yesterday and officers were called to the scene.

Relatives of the pensioner, who was known in Bentley as the 'man with two dogs' because he was regularly seen walking the pets, have been informed.

They previously revealed how his wife of more than 60 years, Lilian, had suffered a fall and broken hip on the day the former gas fitter went missing and this had affected him.

He then told members of staff at his regular bookmakers in nearby Queen Elizabeth Avenue that they would never see him again prior to his disappearance.

Thoughts

Inspector Kelly Monaghan, from Walsall Police, said: "This is a very sad discovery as we were desperately hoping to find Sidney and reunite him with his family. Our thoughts go out to all his family and friends."

West Midlands Police spokesman Brigg Ford said: "Police had issued several appeals for sightings of Mr Edlin after he went missing from his home in Rowlands Avenue, Bentley."

"Officers received a call from a member of the public in Leamore Lane reporting what they believed to be a body floating in a nearby stretch of the Wyrley & Essington canal."

"The body has been visually identified as being 84-year-old Mr Edlin – at this stage his death is not being treated as suspicious."

His family had launched a desperate plea for his safe return home, saying it would be a 'big chunk' out of their lives if they never saw him again. Mr Edlin was described as a quiet man who was loved by all including more than 20 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He had last been seen walking off in the direction of Jane Lane School.



A family photograph of Mr Edlin, seen with his great-great grandson Harry, aged one

Sasha falls short in final of The Voice

SHE was described as an "amazing vocalist" but Willenhall singer Sasha Simone missed out on becoming the winner of The Voice.

The 25-year-old, who is originally from Willenhall, had made it through to the final of the BBC show and earned the support of famous artists such as

Will Young. She impressed with her performances of What I Did for Love and then Chain of Fools with her mentor Sir Tom Jones.

But the former Pool Hayes Arts and Community School pupil failed to reach it to the last two in the grand final following the public vote.

Sir Tom told her he was very

proud of her while fellow judge Rita Ora described the bricklayer by trade as an amazing vocalist. After being piped to the crown as winner, Sasha thanked Sir Tom for all he had done for her and praised her sister for getting her to take part.

The winner was Scots singer Stevie McCrorie.

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Football crazy? Snap up ground for £800k

JEREMY Peace may want up to £200 million to sell West Bromwich Albion. But for just a fraction of that price – 0.4 per cent to be precise – a prospective football entrepreneur could own their own club in South Staffordshire.

The site of disbanded Wyrley Rangers Football Club is up for sale and new owners are being sought. For £800,000 the buyer could land themselves two floodlit pitches, a 100-seater covered stand and even a caretaker's bungalow. Wyrley Rangers disbanded eight years ago but the site is still used by owner Nadir Imamoglu, a former Turkish professional footballer.

It is rented out to teams at the weekend and with good road links to three motorways, Mr Imamoglu thinks the eight-acre site will make an attractive proposition. The 67-year-old is retiring after being involved with the club since 1988. He said: "I think it's time to call it a day. The site is a great opportunity for somebody."

The club is based in Long Lane, Essington and is listed by Skitts Estate Agents for £795,000.

As well as the pitches and stand, the listing includes a function room, bars, kitchen, changing rooms and car parking. Willenhall Town play there on Saturdays and FC Reedswoods Ladies on Sundays, with both teams renting pitches on a season-by-season basis. Mr Imamoglu, who has also been a football manager and referee during his career, said the site could have many uses, including an equestrian centre.

Trees planted as part of scheme

EIGHTY new trees have been planted to spruce up a Black Country borough. They have been put around Walsall to enhance the town.

Jason Simpson, arboricultural surveyor for clean and green at Walsall Council, said it would add to the borough's environment.

He said: "Walsall's urban forest programme shows our commitment to preserving trees for future generations and how this contributes to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our neighbourhoods."

He added that the benefits of trees include reducing wind speeds during storms and absorbing noise from traffic. They also can also provide an attractive backdrop around the borough and reduce emissions.

Charity raffle to help the poor

A CHARITY event will be held at a church in Walsall to help tackle poverty across the world. It will feature music, a raffle and craft stalls at St Lawrence Church Hall, Darlaston on May 16 at 3pm.

Former Cadbury HQ builder chosen



Franklin House as it should look

ALDRIDGE-BASED builder Shaylor Group has been appointed principal contractor on the £16m refurbishment of former Cadbury headquarters Franklin House in Bournville. Working closely with developers Court Collaboration and local architects BPN, Shaylor Group will carry out the refurbishment works to convert the 1960s commercial office space into high-spec urban apartments, worth £6.4m of the overall budget. The project will see Franklin House, reportedly the birthplace of the Curly Wurly, developed into 79

one and two-bedroom apartments, including four penthouse suites featuring internal courtyards. The property will subsequently be rebranded as 'The Franklin', a collection of stylish modern residences, and is on target for completion in March 2016.

Conversion

The contract is the latest in a string of commercial to residential projects Shaylor Group has been awarded nationally. In London, Shaylor Group has recently completed two similar projects in Croydon with a combined

value of around £6.5m and work has recently started on a third residential conversion project in the capital which will see a former office block converted into over 140 studios with a contract value of just under £5m.

Shaylor chief executive Stephen Shaylor said: "Our team are very excited to begin work on this historic local landmark. BPN Architects have an excellent vision for the building and our highly skilled team are eager to get the transformation underway. We look forward to bringing 'The Franklin' to life."

Family man died after fracturing skull in fall

A 'COMMITTED family man' suffered a fractured skull and died after he collapsed in his garden – a day before he was to go on holiday to celebrate his birthday.

David Moore fell and struck his head on a footpath at his home, in Somerset Road, County Bridge, Willenhall on March 20, his 68th birthday.

Despite the efforts of his wife Ann and paramedics who were called to the scene, the retired Inland Revenue officer died from his injuries.

The couple, who have a daughter Frances, were planning to go on holiday the next day.

Mrs Moore told the inquest that he had taken some home grown carrots into the kitchen and was returning to the garden when she heard a thud at about 3.45pm. She said she did not see him fall. She said: "He decided to spend his birthday working in the garden because we bought a new greenhouse and we were going away on the weekend."

"Frances heard him moving round in the house. He came out of the back door into the garden and I heard a thud. I will never forget it. It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining, we wore T-shirts and there was no moss on the footpath, there was nothing to slip over on."

Ambulance

She said she found her husband collapsed and lying on his back in the gateway.

She said: "I slapped his face trying to wake him. His arm went rigid. A passer-by who was walking his dogs came to help. I did CPR and Frances called the ambulance which came moments later. The paramedic took over and tried to resuscitate him."

"He was a really committed family man. His family meant everything to him. He had retired and was enjoying his retirement. He retired in March last year when he was 67. He was full of life. We were going away the following day."

"He had been a very healthy man all our married life. He used to walk the dogs."

The cause of death was given as skull fracture and blunt head injury at the hearing held this week at Smethwick Council House.

Black Country Coroner Mr Zafar Saddique said: "On balance of probabilities it may be a natural event that caused the fall, but there is no direct evidence of that. I am going to conclude that death was a natural cause. He may have had some form of stroke and fell and hit his head."

Hotel was dream honeymoon



Floral tribute – Brenda and Geoff Hill from Pelsall, marking their 50th wedding anniversary

THEY had a 17-bedroom honeymoon hotel all to themselves following their 1965 wedding, courtesy of a generous aunt in the tourist trade in Boscombe.

"The season hadn't started yet so she came up here while we went down there," said Geoff Hill, aged 75, who met Brenda in the former Finger Post pub in Pelsall. Attracted by her good looks and slim figure, he made a date for the next night and the rest is now part of Hill family history. The couple celebrated 50 years since walking down the aisle at Pelsall Church.

They went on to have two daughters, Sarah, now 48, and Emma, 43, who have given them four grandchildren and two

great-grandchildren. Former toolroom engineer Mr Hill, who was born in Hedsnesford and brought up in Bridgtown, revealed there was no negotiation when it came to deciding where the couple would bring up their family. The newlyweds had lived briefly in Brownhills but after 18 months returned to Brenda's home village of Pelsall, even turning down a move to Derby where Geoff had been offered a job with Rolls Royce.

He said: "She wouldn't live anywhere else. We live in Little Common, just 600 yards from the house in Wolverhampton Road where she grew up."

He worked at Fowlers and Clarksons engineering works.



On their big day

NEWS IN BRIEF

£6,000 is raised by Noddy's night

A MUSIC concert in Walsall organised by former Slade frontman Noddy Holder helped raise around £6,000 for charity. The celebration of 60s and 70s music was at Walsall Town Hall.

More than 650 people snapped up tickets for the event. Walsall Mayor Pete Smith said he was confident the night helped boost the coffers of his chosen charities fund by £6,000.

Councillor Smith said Noddy had 'worked fantastically', adding: "I would like to thank Noddy and the bands, all of whom performed at no cost, for their support and services."

Interim priest to start in role

WORSHIPPERS at a Walsall church have appointed an interim parish priest.

A licensing service has been held for the Rev Dr Jason Phillips who is helping out at Christ Church, in Blakenall Heath, an at St Chad's, in Beechdale.

The move follows the retirement of previous rector the Rev Paul Myers.

Dr Phillips was previously based at the churches of St Mary's, St Chad's, and St Leonard's in Stafford.



Father Jason

Parcel warning after delivery

A RESIDENT in Walsall has been targeted in a parcel scam, prompting police to issue a borough-wide warning.

The resident in Aldridge received an airmail-type postcard from a company called LSL which said a parcel containing £50 worth of jewellery was being held. On the reverse it stated the item is pre-paid but a delivery fee of £50 had to be paid by bank card by calling an 0800 number.

But police officers say this is a scam.

Taxi is damaged by jobs throwing stones

A TAXI was damaged after stones were thrown from a railway bridge in Pelsall. Police have stepped up patrols following the incident at the Fordbrook Lane railway bridge.

The rear windscreen was broken and bodywork dented, causing around £600 worth of damage.

Officers have said reports of youths hanging around on this bridge throwing stones has increased. Anyone with information regarding any youths involved can call police on 101.

Hair care masterclass

THE owner of a hair salon gave college students a masterclass in hairdressing.

Lisa Davies, who runs Tobias in Walsall, visited the town's college to show students how to replicate a range of barbering techniques including skin fading and adding patterns using a cut throat razor.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Computer ban great but names are no-no

THE terms 'grounded' and 'balanced' are not terms ones one would normally associate with Hollywood couples, but Helen McCrory and Damien Lewis deserve at least two cheers for their strict rules on bringing up their two children.

Concerned about the way a growing number of children seem to live their life through the internet, Peaky Blinders star McCrory has said that her son, aged eight, and daughter nine, are banned from using the computer on school nights, and are allowed only limited access at weekends.

Instead, the couple are encouraging them to read books, including a thesaurus to help them expand their word power.

And quite right too. There is no reason whatsoever why children aged eight or nine should be spending their time glued to computers.

At that age they should be discovering real life, warts and all, not studying some virtual world through an electronic medium.

They should be playing football, cricket or netball with their friends, building dens, painting or baking cakes, not locked in their bedrooms with only a screen for company.

One only has to look around us to see how the computer age has produced a generation of isolated, introverted, individuals who fear any social interaction that does not come at the click of a mouse or the press of a touch-screen.

Being a teenager is difficult enough, without spending hours on end tapping away at a computer. There will be plenty of time for that when they grow up.

And while the political classes are getting all worked up about children being exposed to online pornography, has no one ever stopped to consider that this would be much less of a problem if we did not encourage children to spend so much time on computers?

However, while McCrory and Lewis deserve credit for ensuring their children will learn about real life as well as virtual reality, I do wonder whether they really helped the cause by saddling them with the monikers Manon and Gulliver.

There's just this nagging suspicion that they would find it easier to relate to their peers if they were called Dave and Julie.

□□□□□

MARKETING, the art of using lengthy and plentiful words to say very little. Take this beauty from a well known Australian brewing corporation: "Radler is Foster's Lager cut with cloudy lemon.

Fruity and sharp, it has a distinctive citrus taste, making it a refreshing lager, perfect to enjoy when you're kicking back and want to take things that little bit easier."

Or shandy, as it used to be called in the old days.



Fun for the young with Shrek The Musical



Varied line-up at The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton



Ex-Baywatch and Knight Rider star David Hasselhoff

Get things Hoff to a Grand new season

A swamp ogre and a Baywatch legend are among a host of stars who are coming to the city for a new season of shows

DAVID Hasselhoff will be performing in Wolverhampton for the first time later this year, as the new season at the Grand Theatre is unveiled.

The Baywatch and Knight Rider legend is heading up the new season at the Grand Theatre. Other highlights include Jersey Boys, Shrek: The Musical and Tommy Steele in The Glen Miller Story. Hasselhoff will perform in a brand new musical, Last Night A DJ Saved My Life in November at the Lichfield Street venue.

The 62-year-old and former Britain's Got Talent judge plays an extrovert, party-going DJ in Ibiza in the show which includes a number of 1990s hits including U Can't Touch This, Saturday Night, Things Can Only Get Better, The Only Way Is Up and Friends theme I'll Be There For You.

The musical, which will be shown between November 17 and 21, is produced by the creators of the hugely successful musical Dreamboats and Petticoats.

Smash-hit

Another major addition to the Grand's calendar will be the staging of West End smash-hit Jersey Boys which will be shown next year.

The phenomenally popular musical about the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons has been seen by more than 20 million theatre-goers worldwide and is firmly established as one of London's longest running and most popular shows.



Tuning up for the popular Jersey Boys show which is coming to the grand later in the year

The show will run for two weeks from February 9 to 20 with casting still to be announced.

Other new shows announced include that of singer and actress Barbara Dickson who will be performing in Wolverhampton on June 20. The special performance sees the 67-year-old explore her catalogue of songs including her most famous I Know Him So Well and Another Suitcase In Another Hall.

And veteran of stage and screen Tommy Steele is at the grand in October when he stars in Bill Kenwright's latest star-studded production of The Glen Miller Story, which tells the story of America's famous big band leader.

October also sees the return of Willy Russell's musical Blood Brothers, which was the third longest-running musical in the West End with more than 10,000 performances, while Shrek The Musical will run from September 30 to October 11.

EastEnders bad boy John Altman, who plays Nick Cotton in the BBC soap, will join the Chuckle Brothers for the venue's 2015 Christmas Pantomime of Peter Pan and will be seen playing the role of Captain Hook.

Also coming to Wolverhampton is Keeping Up Appearances star Judy Cornwall. Best known for playing Daisy in the popular TV comedy, Ms Cornwall leads the cast of a lavish new production of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple novel A Murder Is Announced.

The production will be staged in the city at the end of November.

Tickets for the all new shows announced will go on sale to the public from Tuesday, April 7.

For more information visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01902 429212.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

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Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Bags of reasons to pay the price

I AM once again amazed at the logic in the thinking of some of your correspondents.

R Taberner from Oldbury is the latest to confuse me with being in sync with their thinking.

Yes, we will be charged for the provision of plastic carrier bags from supermarkets from October this year but I don't understand the logic in thinking that the cost should be covered by the vendor.

Supermarket owners don't strew their carriers all over the countryside, their customers do.

A charge of five pence for each bag supplied is levied by every shop in Wales, not just the supermarkets, and as someone who spends a lot of time in the principality I can assure you of its advantages.

I do not see the countryside littered with bags, neither do I see them piled with other rubbish on street corners in the towns and cities.

I see that most of the shops donate proceeds from the sale of bags to local charities and good causes.

I see that the majority of shoppers carry re-usable bags to the shops saving the cost of the few pence which is spent on disposable bags.

For me bring on the charge for carrier bags in England, and don't just limit it to supermarkets and larger stores but introduce it to every shop and let us all live in a cleaner environment.

B CHILDS
Walsall

No leaflets for election

I CANNOT believe that the election is only weeks away, and yet in my neck of the woods not one leaflet has been received from any party!

The absence of any politician or councillor adds further to my total disinterest in even bothering to vote, as my mother says we will probably get the 'best of a bad lot'.

Not much incentive to waste my time in marking my cross.

On another note I noticed that two parliamentary candidates were clearly visible at the Mayor of Walsall's recent coffee morning in the mayor's parlour. I wouldn't be so cynical to think that they were present merely to catch votes, surely not.

It will be interesting to see whether both of them, will be as interested in the charities after the election.

R SUHOOD
Walsall

Wembley was day to remember!

I WOULD just like to comment on how much I enjoyed the day out at Wembley.

I felt at home at Wembley. There were a lot of similarities between Wembley and Bescot Stadium. For starters, being stuck on the car park for an hour after the match, then an enormous gaudy digital sign to greet you.

And even when Bristol City paraded the cup in front of their own fans, Wembley still felt obliged to play our very own Millennium Stadium anthem of 'Rockin all over the World'.

And yes...I did stay to watch Bristol City receive the cup. Decorum and respect is the Walsall motto.

And added to which, I was still back on the coach before most of the other supporters who left the stadium after 90 minutes, and still couldn't find their coach among the other 100 coaches on the yellow car park. Some people just want to moan for moaning's sake.

K WILLIAMS
Pelsall
With tongue firmly in cheek.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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What we really need is

Easy option for the Beeb

YOUR journalist Peter Rhodes takes himself to task for previously writing Jeremy Clarkson was unsackable, and now believes he has been.

Don't be too hard on yourself Peter, your previous view was correct.

There is a difference between not renewing someone's contract and being dismissed for gross misconduct without notice for physical assault.

The latter would have happened if this had been the actions of a BBC cameraman.

Unfortunately in society there are one set of rules for celebrities and another for Joe Public.

Clearly the BBC took the easy option.

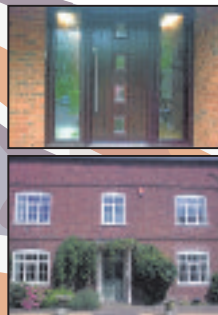
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Thousands take part in Sikh Vaisakhi parade

CENTURIES of tradition were marked in a blaze of bright orange when members of the Sikh community paraded through the streets of the Black Country.

Around 2,000 people dressed in orange clothing, sang hymns and played instruments as they took part in the annual Vaisakhi procession between Wednesfield and Willenhall on Sunday.

The celebration commemorated the anniversary of the initiation of the first five members of the brotherhood of the Khalsa on April 13, 1699 – one of the most significant dates in Sikh history – as well as ushering in spring.

The celebrations began at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Well Lane, Wednesfield, at 10am and finished at the Guru Nank Sikh Gurdwara on Walsall Road, Willenhall, about three miles away, at 1.30pm.

The march is annually organised by members from both temples. Dignitaries at the celebratory event included councillor for Wednesfield South Bhupinder Singh Gakkhal.

As is tradition, a drummer set the beat at the front of the procession, followed by sword bearers, Khalsa flag bearers and an orange-swathed float carrying the Sikh holy book, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Five baptised Sikhs dressed in traditional dress led the way behind a group of sweepers clearing the road for their bare feet. Roads were closed along the route as people walked through the streets or travelled on floats for the huge parade.

The main float carried the Sikh holy book while two other floats contained people singing hymns and playing music. Councillor Singh Gakkhal, who helps organise the event each year, said the procession to Willenhall was a



Outside the Guru Nanak Gurdwara



People taking part in the march



Crowds gather to watch the event



One of the sword bearers

hugely success event. "Every year the parade seems to excel itself and that was certainly the case again this year. The turnout was incredible with about 2,000 people here celebrating the occasion."

One of the many people lining up the Black Country streets was Amar-

jit Sandhu, 38 of Willenhall, who attended with his family. "This is such a special event and such an important one in our religion," he said.

"We celebrate this every year and luckily the weather is good and it's just right, not too cold and not too warm either."

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Students teaming up with West End star



Adam Hepkin with Grace Academy Darlaston students Kayla Allen, Tobias Bains, Tetiana Tymchuk and Bryony Groom

AN award-winning West End performer and producer is planning to take the West Midlands by storm with a debut performance of his concert helped by a new mass community choir and students from a school in Darlaston.

Adam Hepkin, new artistic educational developer for Grace Academies in Darlaston, Solihull, and Coventry, is planning to mould Grace Academy Darlaston students

into a community choir. Performing alongside the choir and singing songs from the shows in The Magic of the Musicals are West End performers such as Keith Jack, the runner-up of BBC's Any Dream Will Do and star of the UK tour of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

The show will take place at Grace Academy Solihull, Chapelhouse Road, Birmingham, at 7.30pm on May 17.

Asbestos link to death

A project manager described as hard-working and having a surreal sense of humour by his family died as a result of exposure to asbestos, an inquest heard.

Former joiner Maurice Cook, of Pellsall, died on February 12 at Walsall Manor Hospital after suffering from breathlessness.

A post mortem found asbestos fibres and furring in his lungs. The cause of death was given as respiratory failure due to asbestosis, chronic pulmonary disease and hypertension.

Giving evidence at the hearing held

at Smethwick Council House, his daughter Jane Pothercary said her father had undergone medical tests in the months prior to his death, but these had not shown the condition.

She said he was using oxygen at home to help with his breathing, but he was admitted to hospital in January when his condition deteriorated.

At yesterday's hearing, Black Country Coroner Zafar Saddique recorded a conclusion that the 67-year-old, of Allens Lane, died due to industrial disease.

Mrs Pothercary told him: "He was

hardworking, conscientious and he had a bizarre sense of humour. Everyone commented on his jokes. He was kind, caring and considerate to others.

"We just cannot believe that he has gone so quickly. It was a big shock to us. He had lots of tests done. He had started to get breathless. He'd always been a strong man, he was about six-foot tall and a big man, but not overweight. Until recently he was fit."

Mr Saddique advised the family to consider seeking independent advice about making a claim for compensation due to the asbestosis.

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Interview pledge to veterans in jobs hope

WAR veterans applying for council posts in Walsall will be guaranteed a job interview from now on, bosses have revealed.

The ruling Labour group has attracted cross-party support. Walsall's armed forces champion, Councillor Carl Creaney, said the promise of job interviews for veterans was central to the drive to focus on job creation schemes.

By Deborah Hardiman

It would also be looking at tackling low wages, high unemployment, child poverty, low educational attainment and health inequalities in parts of the borough.

"It is easy to forget the sacrifices of our veterans, and when they leave the forces it is sometimes difficult for them to adjust to civilian life. A guaranteed job interview will be a big help to them but it also illustrates a shared value between veterans and our plans for a fairer future," Councillor Creaney, of Wilenhall South, said.

The borough is a popular recruiting area for the military. A number of soldiers have fought on the frontline in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Former Irish Guard Scott Yarrington, 29, of Bloxwich who was left fighting for his

life after he was injured by an Improvised Explosive Device, while on patrol in Helmand Province in, 2010 welcomed the move. "I think it's a good idea to offer interviews as long as the candidate is matched properly to the post that is being advertised," Mr Yarrington, a full-time dad, said.

Cpl Jonathan Horne, 27, of Delves, died in an explosion in Afghanistan in 2009. He was helping fellow soldiers from the 2nd Battalion The Rifles who were injured in a previous bomb blast. Gunner David Lawrence, 25, of Bloxwich, died in Basra, Iraq, in 2004 while serving with the 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. He was driving in a convoy when it was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Youngsters ready for walk challenge



Clockwise from bottom left: Sean Hayes, Michael Hayes, Alexandra Sutton, Margaret Hampton, and centre, Daniel Smith

CHILDREN at a Walsall worship centre will join in a fund-raising walk to help young meningitis patients. The group accepted a challenge set by their junior church teacher, veteran charity supporter Margaret Hampton to attain goals.

She explained to them that she was planning a three-mile walk at Walsall Arboretum later this month in aid of the charity The Meningitis Research Foundation.

"I told the children the stories of the babies who have lost limbs because of this condition as part of a lesson on goals," Mrs Hampton, of Bloxwich said.

They attend the Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints in Old Wolverhampton Road off Bloxwich Lane, in Walsall. The charity walk will take place on April 18 at the park in Broadway North.

Mrs Hampton, a seasoned charity fundraiser, last year organised sponsored walks in aid of the Walsall Polio Fellowship, the brittle bones group the Fragile X Society, and the Salvation Army. In total her efforts raised £300. To sponsor her latest project contact her via email to anthonyhampton239@btinternet.com

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16 August	Waldorf & Afternoon Tea
23 August	Chester & Liverpool
31 August	Killarney & The Ring of Kerry
19 September	London & Windsor
20 September	Cotswolds & Stratford
25 September	Romantic Paris
28 September	Paignton
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2 October	London - BBC & London Eye
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"LOSING that money would have been the end of my business. I was physically sick."

These are the words of the man who left £10,000 in the back of a taxi in Walsall, which also included a lump sum from his late mother's estate.

Adrian Quinn said kind cabbie Mohammed Nisar, who kept the money safe and gave it him back, was now a 'friend for life'.

A cancelled train on the fateful day a few weeks ago meant the 46-year-old used car dealer was running late for one of his regular business forays to British Car Auctions in Walsall from his home in Kilpeck, Hereford.

When he arrived at the town station he was about an hour behind and did not have time to make his usual trip to the bank before the auction to deposit the money – so he took it with him in a rucksack.

But seconds after Mr Nisar dropped him off in Green Lane at around a cost of £6.30, the awful truth dawned on Mr Quinn who realised the journey could cost him a whole lot more. "I tried to flag another taxi but they all had fares. I was sick. My body just went into shut-down and I thought 'what am I going to do'."

He added losing thousands of pounds of business cash would have had grave consequences for his CQ Cars company which he runs with wife Maria. He said: "If that bag had of got lost it would have been the end of my business."

After eventually flagging down another cab father-of-three Mr Quinn arrived back at the station rank to find Mr Nisar sitting in his cab with the bag on the passenger seat.

"I was very emotional. I said 'Do you know what was in that bag? Put it this way it is not a box of sandwiches or a newspaper. There is £10,000 in there'." Mr Quinn said he had given the cabbie a cash reward to thank him and had invited him and his wife to his Hereford home for a family meal.



Adrian Quinn hands over a cash award to Walsall taxi driver Mohammed Nisar

Broker picks up top award

LOCAL insurance brokerage Coversure Insurance Services (Walsall) picked up a Community Broker Award – 'Most Inspirational Broker' – which was chosen and presented by nationwide insurer Thistle Insurance.

The awards ceremony took place at Stadium MK in Milton Keynes, and was hosted by Hugh Dennis, star of Mock the Week and Outnumbered.

Coversure Walsall is only the second ever winner of this award, following evidence of outstanding customer service and entrepreneurial spirit.

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WALSALL has long been a hotbed of support for Labour in the town centre, with ardent backing of the Tories in the leafy suburbs.

Both Labour candidates in Walsall North and Walsall South are defending small majorities.

Here, it is widely tipped UKIP will be the main threat to topping the sitting Labour MPs by appealing to disillusioned working class voters.

In Aldridge-Brownhills, there is a new face looking to retain the seat for the Conservatives for the first time in nearly four decades – with Sir Richard Shepherd retiring.

Walsall North is a seat which has been Labour for all but three years since 1955.

But incumbent MP David Winnick is defending a small majority of just 990.

Birthday

He has been the sitting MP for 36 years and will be a month shy of his 82nd birthday if elected.

In 2010 the Conservatives came second with 34 per cent of the vote. If they can hold on to that it could be enough to win them the seat.

The Conservative candidate, Douglas Hansen-Luke, has been campaigning in the constituency for two years.

He has been organising jobs fairs, arranging African exploration projects for schools and practically acting as the incumbent MP.

The seat is 13th on the Tories' list of target constituencies in terms of the smallest majorities to overturn. But that by no means will make it easy.

The only time the Tories held the seat was for a three-year period following the infamous John Stonehouse saga when the MP faked his death on November 20, 1974 to set up a new life in Australia where he was later caught, extradited and imprisoned for fraud.

The loser in the resulting 1976 by-election was Mr Winnick, who won the subsequent election in 1979. The big question is to which party the 4,754 Liberal Democrat voters from 2010 will migrate.

Meanwhile, the Greens could hit

UKIP could hold big say in result with small majorities



A bird's-eye view of the town centre with the New Art Gallery bottom right



Both sides of the political spectrum are present in Walsall, with the central areas held by Labour

Mr Winnick too. Both Walsall North and Walsall South share the bulk of election issues.

Skills and employment rank high, as well as the multi-million pound cuts made to local services by the council – including potential youth club closures and cuts to children's centres.

Funding for the Manor Hospital – dealing with an influx of patients from Staffordshire – is also a priority.

Libraries are safe – but for how

much longer? Investment in job opportunities at Phoenix 10 and the town centre regeneration will be pivotal in bringing prosperity to an area where deprivation is fairly high. Labour's Valerie Vaz will be looking to increase her 39.7 per cent of the vote.

Last time around the Conservatives were less than 2,000 votes behind Labour.

Their candidate this time is Sue Arnold, Deputy Police and Crime Com-

missioner for Staffordshire, who grew up in the town and used to run a local newspaper.

UKIP will be hoping for at least a third place finish and would hold the swing of power as to who wins.

Aldridge-Brownhills is one of the safest Conservative seats, with Yorkshire farmer's daughter Wendy Morton being handed the blue rosette. The constituency has a very strong Tory majority of 15,256.

The closest Labour has got to winning the seat since 1974 was in 1997 at the height of Blair Mania when Janos Toth, now Labour's candidate in Cannock Chase, came within 2,500 votes of dethroning Sir Richard.

How their candidate John Fisher would love to be going into the election with the same levels of popularity Mr Blair did.

The Manor House Youth Centre in Aldridge is one of 10 that will close

under cuts from Walsall Council. The popular service has been running in the village for decades.

The council has seen a power shift in the last year, with Labour becoming the biggest party, replacing a Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition. The Green candidate is Martyn Curzey, Ian Garrett is contesting the election for the Liberal Democrats, and Mark Beech is standing for the Monster Raving Loony Party.

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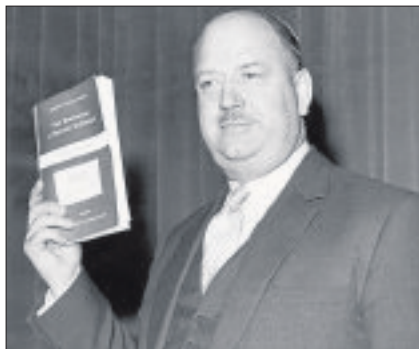


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Between the two reports on railway cutbacks, the West Midlands was hit as hard as anywhere



Dr Beeching had been tasked with making savings and the axing of several lines made him unpopular with rail enthusiasts

Why cutbacks put Dr Beeching on the wrong track with the rail enthusiasts

DR Richard Beeching has a bad reputation among rail enthusiasts. His name has become a dirty word.

On the back of his 1963 report 'The Reshaping of British Railways', more commonly known as the Beeching report, the government ripped up around a third of the national's rail tracks.

It was a move which devastated the network, costing 67,000 people their jobs and closing 2,363 railway stations in the process. But much less widely known is Beeching's second report, which marks its 50th anniversary in 2015. Just don't expect to see rail enthusiasts celebrating. Entitled 'The Development of the Major Railway Trunk Routes' the report cemented much of what had been achieved by the earlier publication and further concentrated future plans for the network around a handful of main lines.

Between the two reports, the West Midlands was hit as hard as anywhere. Dr Beeching had been tasked with making savings. Big savings.

British Rail was losing £140 million a year

MEMORY LANE

By Rob Cox

when he took over as chairman of the British Transport Commission in 1961.

His strategy was to implement wholesale route closures in an attempt to concentrate resources on the core routes and close down those sections which were losing money.

Inevitable

So in the West Midlands, some of the closures were inevitable. It emerged from Dr Beeching's studies that the Windmill End station, just outside Dudley, had been used by just one passenger a day, and it was surely little wonder that the town's three-mile Bumble Hole line was to close. But Beeching did not stop there.

While most people expected that some of the smaller towns would lose their rail links, he proposed the closure of all passenger services to Dudley and Walsall.

Dudley was one of the biggest communities in the country to be hit when its station at the bottom of Castle Hill was closed in July 1964.

Walsall station managed to avoid the full force of the axe, but had its services drastically reduced with just one line being retained to Birmingham New Street. Cannock, Aldridge and Wednesbury would also lose their stations, along with Darlaston, West Bromwich and Great Bridge.

Across the country 4,500 miles of railway tracks were put out of use. In their place motorways were being built at a rapid rate and the car was seen as the future.

No longer would rural areas have immediate access to the rail network. In many places replacement bus services were established, but few stood the test of time.

It is often argued Dr Beeching took a narrow-minded view of how money was generated on the rail network.

David Williams, editor of the Severn Valley Railway News, explains: "His remit was to reduce the deficit that the railways had at that time," he said. "It has been said since that what

he did was to cut off the bits around the core of the network.

"The trouble was that those fed into the main system. What Beeching didn't take into account was just that.

"He had got a scientific background and not a background in the railways. He considered the lines and stations independently not the cumulative affect his measures would have. His view was a very narrow one."

The second Beeching report concentrated on stimulating traffic on the core routes. Rather than branch line closures it set out which sections of the main line would be developed, and which would not.

Dr Beeching felt the "bloated" network was a legacy from the private foundations of the railways that was no longer cost-effective.

His conclusion was that of 7,500 miles of 'trunk' railway only 3,000 miles "should be selected for future development" and invested in.

It resulted in traffic being routed along nine lines.

Dr Beeching estimated it would save between £50-£100m.

Among the stations closed under the Beeching axe

Hammerwich
Brownhills
Pelsall

Wednesbury Town
Great Bridge North
Dudley Port Low Level
Dudley

Windmill End
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New Era is key to town heritage centre's future

AN historic lock firm is lending its support to a heritage centre unlocking the industry's past in a Black Country town.

Era, based in Willenhall for more than a century, has awarded an undisclosed 'generous' sum to the town's Grade II listed Locksmith's House.

The sponsorship will go towards the cost of keeping the New Road site open to the public as well as opening it further to schools in the area. It follows a small dip in visitor figures at the attraction, which is operated by the Black Country Living Museum. Running costs for the venue are about £8,000 a year.

Director of development, Vicky Stanley, said: "We are very pleased to announce the support and sponsorship of Era - both have a rich history in the Willenhall area, and the company is a great example of how those centuries old skills have been transferred into a successful modern company."

Around 700 visitors called into the centre last year compared to 800 in 2013.

Delighted

The majority come from schools in Wolverhampton and Willenhall.

Era's chief executive Darren Waters said: "We take great pride in the heritage of our business, and in Willenhall - the heart of British lock making for centuries. We are delighted to be able to support the Locksmith's House and help keep this important part of our history alive."

The factory, in Straight Road, Short Heath, has been designing and making locks since 1838. It produces locks, handles and hinges. Opening hours at the site is also under review as part of efforts to secure its future.

The number of people booking visits overall last year, despite sell-out crowds for one-off events, such as, National Heritage Open Days last September and Edwardian Christmas evenings. Last summer The Locksmith's House was opened on one Saturday every month for the first time.



Museum assistant curator, Helen Taylor, with Stuart Jones, Era quality engineer

Saved children's centre in new start under relaunch

A CHILDREN'S centre that was saved from closure due to council spending cuts has relaunched with a new name.

Pheasey Park Children's Centre Nursery is no longer operated by Walsall Council and was taken over on April 1 by the adjoining school of the same name. Day care facilities are continuing at the site in Wimpey Way.

Walsall Council closed its operations at the children's centre on March 31. All affiliated Surestart activities have also ceased at the premises.

Children's centre manager Barbara Butlin said: "We want all the parents to know that we are not closing as was first feared. The day care service is still

up and running. We have been here for more than 20 years and we are not going anywhere." Pheasey Park Farm Primary School head Sally Lanni said she was over the moon that many of the services would continue.

"Children can start with us from 0 years upwards and stay until they are 11. Most of our children then go to Barr Beacon School which is our main feeder secondary that is recognised by Ofsted as 'outstanding'."

"The nursery has been described as highly effective in all aspects of its work and the excellent work across the school and children's centre has been commended by Ofsted."



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The response would be a lengthy one given the wide range of positive elements which contribute to the school's unique character...

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Academic excellence – Year on year our students achieve of their very best, ably supported by staff whose focus is enabling them to demonstrate their understanding and ability.

Uniqueness

Exceptional care for the individual – Teaching concentrates on meeting the needs of each individual as we recognise the uniqueness of each one of our students. In addition Pastoral Support Co-ordinators work closely with our Personal Achievement Managers in ensuring that students have access to a range of opportunities to obtain academic or other support.

A wide-ranging extra-curricular programme – The variety of trips and visits and other activities is extensive and enables our students to develop a wide range of transferrable skills which will equip them for their lifelong pursuit of learning and success.

High quality and committed staff – Our staff are highly talented and have the ability to ensure that our students can excel. We have a blend of experience and innovation which makes sure



Head teacher Dr Alison Bruton outlines the strengths of Queen Mary's High School

that the learning experiences are not only creative but also focused on the various assessment processes that are in place.

A family oriented environment – Queen Mary's High School is a unique and very special learning environment which should not be taken for granted. Visitors and newcomers to the school

comment on it's friendly, family atmosphere. Students achieve well here because they have formed great relationships with their teachers, other adults, friends and other students.

In light of this, who wouldn't want to choose Queen Mary's High School for their daughter?



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US wrestling legend to star in show

AMERICAN wrestling legend Christopher Chavis will take to the ring in Darlaston tomorrow night, Friday.

Best known for his work with the World Wrestling Federation as Tatanka from 1991 to 1996 and from 2005 to 2007 the 53-year-old will be at the Darlaston All Active Centre, in Willenhall Road.

Local wrestling star, Matt Powell, better known as Mad Dog Maxx, has brought some of the top names in wrestling from around the globe.

Mr Powell, aged 30, of Walsall, said: "Tatanka from North Carolina in the USA is a true wrestling icon, his trademark Indian head-dress, war paint and tomahawk chop are iconic."

Others taking part include Willenhall wrestler Johnny Thunder, Wiltshire heavyweight JD Knight and Mad Dog Maxx. Doors will open at 6.30pm, with the show starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £5, £10 or £17.50 for a family of four.

For more information or to book, call 07747 441028.



Getting ready for the event are Mad Dog Maxx, with the beard, and Johnny Thunder

Faults led to M6 fourth lane being shut to motorists

THE fourth lane of the M6 was shut to Midlands motorists on more than 70 days last year because of technology faults, it has emerged.

The extra lane opens up at busy times to ease congestion between junctions eight at West Bromwich and 10a at Essington.

But from January 1 to December 31 there were 74 days where it was out of action, ranging from up to nine hours to less than a minute. The figures released under the Freedom of Information Act show there were 141 technology faults reported, with the most being in May. But some of these applied to the same problems but on a different stretch of the main section which carries around 160,000 drivers a day.

The extra lane system, which works with cameras and signs, was brought in between the junctions in 2011 as part of a £150 million managed motorways scheme.

The cost of repairing the problems has not been revealed by the Highways Agency who say it is part of a maintenance contract.

Work to reduce congestion as part of a £87.5m 'smart motorways' project is also being carried out between junctions 10 and 13 in Staffordshire. There are also plans to revamp the main M6 junction 10 island at Walsall under a £60m scheme. Lanes going over the motorway will be increased from two to four under proposals to rebuild the bridges and improve traffic flow.

The ambitious project also involves widening the M6 slip roads and improving the Wolverhampton Road and Bloxwich Lane junction.

Worst for congestion in region

A STRETCH of the M6 is the most congested road in the West Midlands, according to new research.

The section from the M54 interchange down to Junction 7 Great Barr is the worst for jams in the region.

In second place, based on research by traffic firm TomTom, was the A58m Aston Expressway, while the M42 from J2 Hopwood Park to the Junction 7 M6 Interchange was third on the list.

Other nightmare routes include the A5 Watling Street from the Staffordshire border with Shropshire to Brownhills along with the A454 Black Country Route from Pleck Road, Walsall, to Bilston Road, Willenhall.

The southbound stretch of the M6 passing through Junction 10 Walsall was found to be the slowest highway in the West Midlands.

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New head of academy takes up his position

Cutting it fine for students



Lisa Davies from Tobias Barbers shows Level 2 Barbering students at Walsall College some of the latest techniques in hairdressing

STUDENTS at Walsall College received a professional hairdressing lesson from the owner of a Walsall-based barber shop.

Lisa Davies from Tobias Barbers visited the college to show Level 2 Barbering students how to replicate a range of techniques including skin fading and adding patterns using a cut throat razor.

The workshop, which was part of the students progression week, gave students an insight into the skills they will learn to master if they progress to the Level 3 course.

Walsall College hairdressing lecturer, Nichola Arrowsmith said: "Lisa was a real inspiration to students and we are very grateful to her for coming in to showcase her talents."

"It was a great opportunity for students to learn from someone who is already successful in the industry and pick up some tricks of the trade. Sessions like this are an ideal way to prepare students for the world of work."

Tobias recently took on a Walsall College apprentice.

A SCHOOL in Darlaston has announced the appointment of a new permanent headteacher to build on the success of interim Graham Steele.

Grace Academy's new principal, Carl Salt, will take up his position this month - after turning previous school Aston Manor Academy, Birmingham, into one of the most successful schools in the country during his time there.

Born and bred locally, Mr Salt has spent his entire teaching career in Birmingham and the Black Country and has a passion to help students from the inner city to succeed.

"It was obvious from my first visit to Grace Academy Darlaston that the school has undergone some dramatic changes in recent times and it is definitely 'on the up'", he said. "Building on the current successes of the staff, pupils and parents at Grace Academy Darlaston, I have every confidence in the school becoming one of the most successful academies in the area over the next few years."

"I was part of the team at Aston Manor Academy that helped to lead the academy into being an outstanding school and this is something I intend to repeat at Grace Academy Darlaston."

Mr Salt has a background in the engineering and manufacturing industries before moving into teaching, and has previously worked at Great Barr School, College High School (now Birmingham Academy) and Bartley Green School as head of department.

He added: "When I visited the academy, students were well behaved, courteous and polite, and there was a real warm but industrious feel about the school."



Principal Carl Salt

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Paul Simon & Sting



Sunday, 7.30pm
Genting Arena, B'ham
Sting and Paul Simon, two of music's most seminal artists, will bring their On Stage Together tour to Birmingham on Sunday featuring a massive 30-plus song set.
Visit www.gentingarena.co.uk

Marillion Weekend



Friday - Sun
Civic Hall, W'ton
The Marillion Weekend 2015 - UK will take place over three nights at the Civic in Wolverhampton. The concerts will feature a different show every night for fans of the band.
Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Simple Minds



Saturday, 7pm
O2 Academy, B'ham
Fresh from their renaissance, and deserved reappraisal, Simple Minds have a brand new album, 'Big Music' to promote. Simple Minds will play two sets with an interval.
www.o2academybirmingham.co.uk

Who Do You Think You Are?



Thursday - April 18
NEC, B'ham
Inspired by the television series of the same name, Who Do You Think You Are? Live is well-established event offering expert advice to both novice and experienced family historians.
Visit www.thenec.co.uk

ROCK & POP

Paul Simon & Sting
Sun at 7.30pm,
£51.32 - £138.20
Genting Arena, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Marillion Weekend
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 6pm, £118
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Simple Minds
Saturday at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Permageddon - The 80s Pop Show
Sun at 8pm, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Quill
Friday at 7.30pm,
£15 - £19.50
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX. Call 01562 743745

Talon - Best Of Eagles
Friday at 7pm,
£14.50 - £24.25
The Wulfrun, Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH. Call 01902 552106

Hey Beatles
Saturday at 8pm, £16
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

T.Rextasy - 'Get It On'
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£13 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

La Villa Strangiato
Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Anglagard
Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £17
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

The Food Fighterz
Friday at 8pm, £8
The River Rooms, Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Benjamin Folke Thomas
Thu at 7.30pm, £8
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

The Wombats
Friday at 7pm, £19.12
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Nik Turner's New Space Ritual
Sun at 8pm, £12
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Michael Ball
Sun at 7.30pm, £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Timothy Morris
Thu at 1.10pm - 2pm, £6
Kidderminster Town Hall, DY10 1DB. Call 01562 732158

La Boheme - English Touring Opera
Mon at 7.30pm,
£11.50 - £27.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Siege of Calais
Tue at 7.30pm,
£11.50 - £27.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

CBSO Mendelssohn's Midsummer
Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £41
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Stourport Brass Band
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£8 - £10
The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX. Call 01562 743745

SOUL

Newhampton Soul Club
Saturday at 8pm - 1am,
£4 - £5
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

The Jersey 4
Saturday at 7pm, £25.95
West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, DY12 1LF. Call 01299 40211

Magic of Motown
Friday at 8pm, £21.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Andy Irvine
Wed at 7.45pm, £12
Red Lion Folk Club, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7LY. Call 0121 472 4253

Larkin Poe
Wed at 7.30pm, £13 - £15
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Anthony John Clarke
Thu at 8.30pm, £5
Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, WV3 4BP. Call 07910 632695

JAZZ & BLUES

Steve Howe - Solo Tour
Thu at 7.30pm, £20 - £22
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Slowburner
Saturday at 7.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

THEATRE

Essence of Ireland
Saturday at 7.30pm,
£16 - £26.90
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Sun at 7.30pm, £16 - £26.90
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Derren Brown
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm,
£39.90
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Tall Stories: The Snail and the Whale
Friday at 10.30am, 1.30pm, £8 - £28
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Shrek the Musical
Friday, Saturday, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Sun at 1pm, 5pm, Saturday at 2.30pm, £18.50 - £45
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

HMS Pinafore
Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, £9 - £10
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN. Call 01902 572090

Grease
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday at 2.30pm, £13 - £20
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

Beautiful Thing
Friday, Saturday at 2.30pm, 7.45pm, £30
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Feed The Beast
Thu at 7.45pm, £12 - £20
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

The Basil Brush Show
Mon at 11am, 2.30pm, £12 - £45
Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

DogFight
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm, £12.50
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Cell
Wed at 7.30pm, £8 - £10
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

The Ghost Train
Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday at 2.30pm, £12 - £25.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Pinocchio
Tue at 2.30pm, £8.50 - £34
Lichfield Garrick Theatre and Studio, WS13 6HR. Call 01543 412121

COMEDY

Patrick Monahan
Friday at 7.30pm, £14
The Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, B2 5NY. Call 0121 200 1892

Jo Enright - Erdington Girl
Saturday at 8pm, £10 - £12
Artrix Arts Centre, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Matt Forde
Friday at 7pm, £10 - £11
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

FAMILY EVENTS

Chris and Pui Roadshow
Saturday at 11am, 2pm, £10 - £43
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Easter Workshop
Mon, Tue, Wed at 10am - 4pm, £30
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Easter Eggstravaganza
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Free
West Midland Safari Park, Bewdley, DY12 1LF. Call 01299 40211

TALKS

Titanic - Midlands Connections
Mon at 7.30pm - 9pm, £2
Walsall Local History Centre, Walsall, WS2 7AS. Call 01922 721305

'Wines from the Hedgerow'
Thu at 7pm, £5
Winterbourne House and Garden, University of Birmingham, B15 2RT. Call 0121 414 3003

OTHER EVENTS

Who Do You Think You Are? Live 2015
Thu at 9.30am - 5.30pm, £16 - £33
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Gadget Show Live
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 9am, £22.99 - £31.99
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Charity Disco Night
Friday at 7pm, £3 - £8
Spring Meadow Social Club, Cradley Heath, B64 6LB. Call 01384 569602

Meet Our Vegetable Garden Team
Mon at 11am - 1pm, Free
Moseley Old Hall, Moseley Old Hall Lane, Featherstone, Wolverhampton, WV10 7HY. Call 01902 782808

Wedding Fair 2015
Sun at 11am, Free
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Antiques for Everyone Spring Fair
Friday, Saturday, Sun at 9am - 5pm, £12
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

LOCAL CINEMA

The Hundred-Foot Journey
Thu at 7.30pm, £3 - £5
Claverley Village Hall, Church Street, Wolverhampton, WV5 7DA. Call 01746 710239

NT Live The Hard Problem
Thu at 7pm, £10 - £19.50
Artrix Arts Centre, Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Thu at 7pm, £10 - £19.50
Light House, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

Thu at 7pm, £10 - £19.50
mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Thu at 7pm, £10 - £19.50
Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station Street, Birmingham, B5 4DY. Call 0121 643 7879

White God
Friday at 6pm, Saturday at 8.10pm, Sun at 7.45pm, Mon at 2pm, £7.50
mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Tour has X Factor for star Alexandra



Lady in red –Alexandra with dancers in a scene from the show

X FACTOR winner Alexandra Burke will reprise her West End role as soul star Rachel Marron in Thea Sharrock's hit musical The Bodyguard at Wolverhampton.

The stage version of the 1992 Oscar-nominated movie, that starred Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, will be at the Grand Theatre from April 21 to May 2.

Miss Burke said "I couldn't be happier to be joining the tour and I'm

excited to get started. Being on the theatre stage has brought me great happiness.

"It is an honour to have been asked to join the team and I look forward to creating new and long lasting memories with the cast."

She rose to fame winning the fifth series of The X Factor and her debut single Hallelujah went on to sell more than one million copies in the UK. Her first album Overcome also fea-

tured the chart-topping singles Bad Boys and Start Without You. She has toured in her own right and as support for Beyonce, and went on to take over from Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight in The Bodyguard on the London stage.

At matinee performances the leading role will be played by Pop Idol finalist Zoe Birkett. The Bodyguard returns for a run at Birmingham Hippodrome in August.



Count on this for good time

ON one of his previous appearances in Birmingham the bespectacled buffoon who is Count Arthur Strong had difficulty navigating his way through the theatre curtains and was convinced the stage was facing the wrong way until he turned around.

Since then the Harry Worth throwback, has made the leap from the gogglebox and has won critical acclaim.

The twisted world of Count Arthur, played and written wonderfully by Steve Delaney, is littered with characters who are as out of touch with modern society as he is.

Disasters

Strong's Radio 4 comedy shows started 10 years ago and have run for seven series so far and focus upon the everyday disasters of the once "famous" star of variety who has never really lost his sense of being a showbiz master, even though he is the only one who holds that opinion.

This mixed-up character never misses an opportunity to express his extensive knowledge about entertainment and the rest of the world, of which he is an expert. He has even sent a personal message to theatregoers.

"If you only buy one ticket for something this year buy a ticket for this one twice and bring a friend. I promise you won't regret it. And if you do there must be something wrong with you. No refunds."

He brings his Somebody Up There Licks Me show to the New Alexandra in Birmingham on April 17.

Electro dub pioneers in exclusive live date

ELECTRO dub pioneers Dreadzone are returning to the Black Country with an exclusive live appearance at The Robin 2 in Bilston.

The core members Greg Dread, original bassmaster Leo Williams, the unmistakable MC Spee, legendary reggae vocalist Earl 16 alongside Chris Compton on guitar and Basil on technology make up the current Dreadzone live line up.

As well as live favourites from their back catalogue the band will be playing tracks from Escapades at their show tomorrow.

Tickets are £15 advance and £17 on the door. Call the box office on 01902 401211 or book online at www.therobin.co.uk

Musical feast is on the Cafe menu

LARKIN Poe take the stage at the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham on Wednesday, April 15 with support from Raevannan Husband-ers.

This is a standing only show which is being staged at the Hare & Hounds, York Road, King's Heath and tickets are £13 in advance or £15 on the night. Doors open 7.30pm and the show starts 8pm.

Stourbridge Folk Club hosts founder member of The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils, Eddy Morton for the launch of his new album, Rainbow Man, on April 16. Tickets are £5 and doors open 8pm.

New Wulfrun date for Dr Hook gig

THE Dr Hook gig – postponed after lead singer Ray Sawyer was injured in a fall – has been rearranged for Thursday, May 14 at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton.

The show was meant to take place in March but Sawyer broke his arm so the remaining eight dates of the Hooked on Hits tour had to be postponed. All tickets for the original date remain valid for the new date.

Dr Hook enjoyed considerable success in the 1970s with hit singles including When You're in Love with a Beautiful Woman. Tickets, £29.15 are available from Midland Box Office: 0870 320 7000.

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2.00pm

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JOE LONGTHORNE

Friday
24th April
7.30pm

TICKETS
£22.50



THE MERSEY BEATLES

Friday
17th April
7.30pm

TICKETS
£16



THE KILKENNYS

Tuesday
28th April
7.30pm

TICKETS
£17



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Deliciously light – Garstang Blue cheesecake with pear jelly and toasted hazelnuts



Classy joint – The Fox at Chetwynd Aston



Coriander and lime chicken, pak choi and noodle salad with Thai coconut dressing

Whichever way you look at it this classy Fox is a real winner

IF The Fox had a trophy cabinet, it would look something like the one Sir Alex Ferguson filled during his tenure at Man Utd.

In recent years, The Fox at Chetwynd Aston, Newport has enjoyed wins from five respected guide books.

Since 2007, it's featured in the Good Pub Guide, winning its County Dining Pub of the Year more times than any restaurant ought.

It's a perennial feature of the AA Pub Guide, it never misses a spot in the Good Beer Guide, Alastair Sawday rates it as though it had some sort of divine right and even Michelin has included it in its listing for the UK's best pubs.

They say that when you find a successful recipe, you ought to bottle it. Not that that advice has reached The Fox. They tend

By Andy Richardson

to bottle ales, fine wines and a deliciously fruity juice called Bumbleberry. Recipes are saved for the kitchen.

The Fox is part of the Brunning and Price group, which also owns The Armoury, in Shrewsbury. It's one of the region's finest pub groups, coupling decent, generously-portioned food at affordable prices and an impressive selection of drinks with good standards of service. The quality of both food and service at The Fox is resolutely high.

It's been the foodie equivalent of some sort of 21st century winning machine, notching up success after success as it continues to out-gun, out-run and out-strip the competition.

I'm not convinced with the Good Pub Guide's adjudication that it's the very best

dining pub in Shropshire – I can think of others where food is of a higher quality – but it certainly deserves its recognition. It is undoubtedly one of the very best.

The Fox is a large Edwardian-style pub with a mix of quiet nooks and crannies, bright sunny rooms and a busy central bar. During weekends, high days and holidays, its largest vaulted room leads out onto a south-facing terrace, with views over the gently-rolling countryside and wooded hills beyond.

Strengths

When my friend and I visited, our thoughts couldn't have been further from al fresco dining on summery afternoons. We met for dinner a deux on a decidedly chilly evening, when the wind was blowing a hooley.

One of the key strengths of The Fox is its

staff. Overwhelmingly well-mannered and polite, they are well-drilled and pay attention to detail at all times. Despite the invariable rush at the bar, they remain relatively unflustered and their youthful exuberance and energy transmits itself to diners.

It's a classy operation. But the food is my favourite part. And on my most recent visit, it didn't disappoint. The Fox isn't at the standards of, say, a Michelin Bib Gourmand venue. Nor is it particularly finessed. It does, however, offer an innovative and creative selection of seasonal food at reasonable prices.

It's no surprise that The Fox notches up accolades like a lothario adding notches to a bedpost. It consistently achieves high standards, provides a great environment for meeting-and-eating and a menu that offers more than same-same-staples like fish-and-chips, or lasagne with garlic bread.



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Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

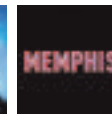
For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.

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CHOICE



Amanda Mealing

Casualty (BBC1, 9.20pm)
A pregnant young woman gives birth in the back of Dixie's ambulance - but when her pushy teacher arrives at the hospital claiming to be adopting the baby, Connie suspects the confused new mum was coerced into the agreement. A schoolboy takes revenge on the bully who is making his life a misery, although it backfires when both his tormentor and his teacher are badly injured. Cal is hurting following Taylor's disappearance and apologises to Ethan for stealing his money. Hospital drama with the staff of Holby's accident and emergency department as they deal with more sick and injured patients. Starring Amanda Mealing, Derek Thompson, George Rainsford and Richard Winsor.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix - Qualifying Highlights. **2.15** Golf: The Masters Highlights. **3.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **4.15** Rowing: The Boat Races. Live coverage of the men's and women's University Boat Races on the River Thames, as Oxford aim to retain their titles against traditional rivals Cambridge. **6.35** BBC News. **6.45** Regional Programme. **6.55** **Pointless Celebrities**. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous faces take part in the general knowledge quiz in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. **8.30** **The National Lottery: In It to Win It**. New series. Quiz in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right - as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws. **9.20** **Casualty**. A pregnant young woman gives birth in the back of Dixie's ambulance - but when her pushy teacher arrives at the hospital claiming to be adopting the baby, Connie suspects the confused new mum was coerced into the agreement. A schoolboy takes revenge on the bully who is making his life a misery, although it backfires when both his tormentor and his teacher are badly injured. Cal is hurting following Taylor's disappearance and apologises to Ethan for stealing his money. **10.10** BBC News; Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day**. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Aston Villa at White Hart Lane and Burnley v Arsenal at Turf Moor. **11.50** **The Football League Show**. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two. **1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 TBA. **6.45** **Film: The Magic Box**. (1951) Biopic of cinema pioneer William Friese-Greene, starring Robert Donat. **8.30** **Film: The Man from Laramie**. (1955) Western, starring James Stewart. **10.10** Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments. (R) **10.40** Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments. (R) **11.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.30** A Taste of Britain. **2.00** **Film: The Philadelphia Story**. (1940) Romantic comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. **3.50** **Flog It!** **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Kew on a Plate. (R) **6.30** **Gardeners' World**. As the weather begins to warm up, there's plenty to be getting on with in the garden, with Monty Don welcoming viewers back to Longmeadow and offering advice on which tasks people should be getting on with at this time of the year. (R) **7.00** **Dad's Army**. The Walington platoon plans to stage a re-enactment of the St George and the dragon story as part of the Wings for Victory fundraising campaign, but discovers Hodges and the ARP wardens have had the same idea. Vintage comedy first shown in 1977, starring Arthur Lowe. (R) **7.30** **Golf: The Masters Live**. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the third day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year continues. Overnight leader and eventual champion Bubba Watson had his worst round of the tournament at this stage last year, carding a two-over-par 74 that allowed 20-year-old Jordan Spieth to gain four strokes and join him at the top of the leaderboard. A strong European contingent never quite managed to challenge Watson for the title, with the likes of Lee Westwood, Thomas Bjorn, Jonas Blixt and Miguel Angel Jimenez all in with a chance in the latter stages, but unable to put enough pressure on the American victor. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **12.00** **Film: The Private Lives of Pippa Lee**. (2009) A middle-aged woman forced to live in a dull retirement community by her older husband looks back on her wild youth. Drama, starring Robin Wright, Alan Arkin and Winona Ryder.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Share a Story: Get Creative. **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Scrambled! Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.30** Scrambled! Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled! Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** **Film: Scooby-Doo**. (2002) The dog and his chums reunite to solve a baffling mystery on the tourist resort of Spooky Island. Live-action comedy adventure, with Sarah Michelle Gellar and Matthew Lillard. **3.20** Off Their Rockers. (R) **3.50** The Unforgettable Benny Hill. (R) **4.30** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme : Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather. **6.00** **New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandnicks, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. **7.00** **Ninja Warriors UK**. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent**. New series. Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete for the chance to win a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance. **9.20** **Play to the Whistle**. **10.05** **ITV News**; Weather. **10.20** **Film: Backdraft**. (1991) The two sons of a fireman who died in the line of duty follow him into the profession. However, a feud develops between them because the elder brother is convinced his sibling is not up to the job - until a mission to uncover the identity of a serial arsonist gives him the chance to prove his worth. Action drama, starring Kurt Russell, William Baldwin, Robert De Niro, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Donald Sutherland. **12.50** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** The Grid. **8.00** Grand National - Morning Line. **10.00** Grand National - Saturday Brunch. **1.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of the third day of the Grand National meeting. **3.25** Channel 4 Racing: Grand National. Live coverage of the world's most famous steeplechase at Aintree. **5.15** TBA. **5.50** Channel 4 News. **6.20** **Film: Independence Day**. (1996) A fleet of huge flying saucers launches a devastating and unprovoked attack on Earth. As survivors try to flee the seemingly unstoppable alien invaders, the courageous US president, an ace pilot and a computer genius come up with a plan to take the fight to the enemy and save the human race. Roland Emmerich's sci-fi adventure, starring Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum, Mary McCormack, Jeff Fahey, Robert Loggia and Harry Connick Jr. **9.00** **Film: I Give It A Year**. (2013) Premiere. A couple marry after a whirlwind romance, but family and friends have doubts about the relationship. As their first anniversary approaches, they both begin to wonder if they are right for each other, especially when faced with more appealing alternative partners. Romantic comedy, with Rose Byrne, Rafe Spall, Anna Farris and Simon Baker. **11.00** **Film: She's All That**. (1999) A popular teenager beats his friends he can turn a shy and clumsy female student into a prom queen. Romantic comedy, starring Freddie Prinze Jr and Rachael Leigh Cook. **12.50** Alan Carr: Chatty Man Grand National Special. Another chance to see the Grand National-themed edition of the comedian's regular chat show, in which he looked ahead to a weekend of horse-racing. With music by Nick Jonas. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Theresa makes a shocking discovery, while Darren takes matters into his own hands, and Esther despairs for Phoebe. (R) **4.00** Secret Location. Sunita Shroff helps a couple who want to find a house in Oxfordshire, but cannot afford a family home in the picturesque town of Thame and have hardly looked anywhere else. (R) **5.00** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Phil visits Worthing, West Sussex, where he helps a couple who want to sell the grand Victorian house they have called home for the past 30 years. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.50** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.15** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.10** Columbo: Sex and the Married Detective. (1989) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.00** **Film: Columbo: The Most Crucial Game**. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Robert Culp. **5.20** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **6.15** TBA. **7.05** **Police Interceptors**. Officers are forced to exercise caution when they stop an uninsured driver who is known to have a violent past, while Jon Peacock and police dog Brad are on the hunt for suspected burglars. Sarah Gapes gets a whiff of something illegal. Mike Templeman pulls over a white van with rather too many faults and one unlucky driver discovers that there is no fooling Dan Briggishaw. (R) **8.00** **5 News Weekend**. **8.05** **NCIS: Los Angeles**. A taxi driver is murdered just hours after sending an e-mail to an old alias that Callen used when he went undercover to investigate three marines who stole \$5million. (R) **9.00** **NCIS**. A Navy lieutenant is found dead in the Pentagon's custodial closet, and surveillance footage indicates she was killed by a co-worker. However, Ziva and the team discover her supposed assailant actually died of a heart attack days before the crime was committed. Meanwhile, suspicions are raised regarding the eyeball left in Tony's drink, and the investigators' attention is fixed on the port-to-port murderer, who appears to still be at large. (R) **10.00** **CST: Crime Scene Investigation**. New evidence leads Sara to reopen a 10-year-old case in which a man was convicted of killing his wife and daughter before turning his gun on himself. **10.55** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit**. The team tries to solve the murder of a paediatrician who had threatened to sue his former employers and the police after being convicted of sexually assaulting patients. (R) **11.50** **Access**. Showbiz news and gossip. **12.00** SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave
7.45 **Film: Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit** (2005) **9.05** **Film: Enemy of the State** (1998) **11.05** Family Guy **1.00** Bluestone 42 **1.30** Killer Magic **2.00** Uncle 3 **2.55** TBA **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Ice Age Giants **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.30** Kings of Rock 'n' Roll **12.30** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.05** Timeshift: Mods, Rockers and Bank Holiday Mayhem **2.05** Wild China **3.05** Ice Age Giants **4.05** Close
ITV2
11.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.00** Britain's Got More Talent: Amanda's Top Ten Moments **2.00** Britain's Got More Talent: Alesha's Top Ten Moments **3.00** Britain's Got More Talent: David's Top Ten Moments **4.00** Mr Bean **5.10** **Film: E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial** (1982) **7.30** **Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure** (1989) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.30** Britain's Got More Talent **1.30** Hell's Kitchen USA **2.20** Crazy Beaches **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
1.35 Wycliffe **3.50** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** A is for Armageddon **11.05** Inspector Morse
ITV4
11.30 Pawn Stars **12.30** Counting Cars **1.20** British Superbike Championship Highlights **2.20** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **3.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.00** Storage Wars: New York **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Shred and Buried **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** **Film: Sudden Impact** (1983) **11.25** **Film: Crank** (2006) **1.10** **Film: Boogeyman** (2004) **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen
E4
11.00 Melissa & Joey **12.00** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** TBA **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** TBA **11.40** Rude Tube **12.35** Channel 4's Comedy Gala **1.35** Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos **2.35** The 100 **3.20** How I Met Your Mother **4.05** Baby Daddy **4.55** TBA
Film4
11.00 Anastasia (1997) **1.00** Tales from Earthsea (2006) **3.15** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **4.50** 27 Dresses (2008) **7.00** 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) **9.00** Hot Tub Time Machine (2010) **10.55** The Football Factory (2004)



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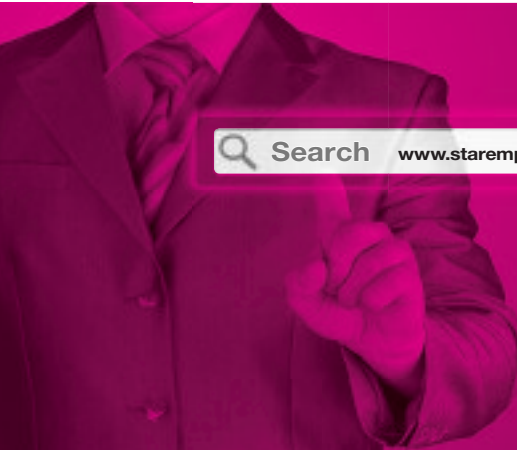
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Gregg Wallace & John Torode

MasterChef (BBC1, 7.30pm)
Restaurateur John Torode and radio presenter Gregg Wallace host the cookery competition as contestants are put through gruelling culinary challenges to test not just their skills, but also their knowledge of food and ability to cope in a professional kitchen. The semi-finals begin with the eight hopefuls split into teams of four and challenged to the Relay Invention test, in which both groups must come up with a single dish between them. Using a chicken and a range of vegetables, herbs and spices, each team member has just 20 minutes to make their contribution - but as they cannot speak, they must leave clues behind to help their team-mates decipher what the dish is supposed to be. Continues tomorrow.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix. **3.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.25** Points of View. **4.40** Songs of Praise. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. The latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.30 MasterChef. John Torode and Gregg Wallace present the cookery competition, as a series of contestants are put through gruelling culinary challenges.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Belton House in Lincolnshire. Items include a ceramic model of London Zoo's first elephant from the late 19th century, an engraved glass vase won at a fair in the 1920s, a collection of memorabilia relating to the Duke of Windsor and a children's chair in the shape of a starfish. There's also an interview with Professor Timon Screech about Britain's centuries of trade with Japan, accompanied by an ornate lacquer chest that may have arrived with the first shipment of Japanese treasures in 1614.

9.00 Poldark. Ross finds there is a fever at Bodmin Jail, when he discovers that Jim is near death, he and Dwight embark on a desperate course of action to save their friend.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Gabby Logan reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Manchester City at Old Trafford and Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea at Loftus Road.

11.30 Film: The Last Castle. (2001) A court-martialed general sent to a high-security military jail sets out to bring down the cruel warden. Thriller, starring Robert Redford.

1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **12.50** A Taste of Britain. (R) **1.20** Film: Little Women. (1949) Four sisters find maturity and romance during the American Civil War. Oscar-winning drama based on Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, starring June Allyson and Elizabeth Taylor. **3.15** Triathlon. **4.45** TBA. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 Golf: The Masters Live. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the fourth and final day from the Augusta National in Georgia, as the opening Major of the year reaches a conclusion. America's Bubba Watson secured his second title in three years here 12 months ago, finishing three strokes clear of compatriot Jordan Spieth and Sweden's Jonas Björk. England's Lee Westwood was the highest-placed British player in seventh place, with Northern Ireland's world number one Rory McIlroy and 57-year-old German Bernhard Langer among those one shot behind him. The drought for British winners here goes all the way back to 1996, when Nick Faldo secured the third of his Green Jackets, and despite a strong representation among the world's elite, European golfers have also struggled to make their mark here for a surprisingly long time. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 Film: First Snow. (2006) A salesman stranded in a remote New Mexico town is told by a psychic that he will die the next day that it snows. As the weather grows colder, he becomes obsessed with revisiting his past as he strives to find a way to change his destiny before it is too late. Thriller, starring Guy Pearce, Piper Perabo, William Fichtner and JK Simmons. **1.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile. Matt Baker finds out the importance of rabbits in the Brecklands of Norfolk, Ellie Harrison forages for metal to make sculptures, and James Wong launches the Grow Wild campaign. (R) **2.30** Holby City. Jonny is released from prison but it seems there will be no chance of a quiet return to work. Sacha is delighted to see Essie again, while Arthur suffers first-day nerves on AAU. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **2.30** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.50** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.35** Ninja Warriors UK. (R) **5.35** You've Been Framed! (R)

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News: Weather.

6.30 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four celebrity contestants pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

7.30 Off Their Rockers. Hidden-camera show in which fearless senior citizens play pranks on the public.

8.00 Vera. When the remains of a teenager are found half-buried in a woods, Vera finds herself investigating a 30-year-old mystery. Identified as Carrie Telling, a girl who disappeared during the 1984 miners' strike, the team retrieves news footage from the protests that shows her taking pictures in the background. It appears she got caught up in the unrest that day, contradicting her father's assertion that she went straight home. Photographs recovered from her camera yield further revelations for Vera. What did Carrie discover that ultimately led to her death?

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.15 Olivier Awards 2015.

12.00 Premiership Rugby Union. **12.45** The Store. Home shopping. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.10** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.40** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. **7.05** British GT Championship. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.55** Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) Premiere. A boy learns the story of a strange creature who tried to prevent the destruction of his forest home. Animated fantasy, with the voices of Danny DeVito and Zac Efron.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Three in a Bed. Guest houses compete for the title of best B&B - a competition judged by counting up the profits when guests pay only what they consider their stay to have been worth.

8.00 TBA.

9.00 Indian Summers. Drama set during the summer of 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India. Starring Julie Walters, Henry Lloyd-Hughes, Jenima West, Craig Parkinson and Amber Rose Revah.

10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

11.10 Film: In Fear. (2013) A couple go to Ireland for a music festival, but get hopelessly lost when driving through a series of country roads. Their plight turns deadly as they are terrorised by mysterious figures lurking in the darkness, while an encounter with a seemingly harmless local brings dangers of its own. Horror, starring Iain De Caestecker, Alice Englert and Allen Leech.

12.40 Film: Bhuvan Shome. (1969) A domineering railway official lives by a strict set of rules, and treats the staff working under him harshly. While on holiday, he befriends a free-spirited woman who encourages him to take a more relaxed outlook on life - but then discovers she is in love with one of his employees, whom he intends to dismiss. Comedy drama, starring Utpal Dutt and Suhassini Mulay. In Hindi, Bengali and Gujarati. Part of the Indian Film season. **2.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** TBA. **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **7.00** Chloë's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Zack and Quack. **8.20** TBA. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.05** LazyTown. **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.00** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **12.00** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **1.00** Film: Are We There Yet? (2005) Family comedy, starring Ice Cube. **4.40** Film: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory. (1971) Musical fantasy, with Gene Wilder.

6.40 5 News Weekend.

6.45 Film: Spider-Man. (2002) A clumsy teenager develops superhuman powers after a genetically engineered spider bites him. At first his fantastic skills delight him, but his elation is severely tempered by a family tragedy, prompting him to dedicate his talents to combating evil. However, he faces a baptism of fire in the form of crazed villain the Green Goblin. Comic-book superhero adventure, with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, Willem Dafoe, James Franco and Rosemary Harris.

9.00 Film: Olympus Has Fallen. (2013) Premiere. A secret service operative is dismissed from duty after a tragic accident. As he prepares to leave his assignment, terrorists take control of the White House and hold the president hostage. The agent is trapped in the building, and uses his inside knowledge to rescue the head of state. Action thriller, starring Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman.

11.15 Film: Gamer. (2009) A convict is forced to take part in a violent real-life video game using mind-control technology, but plans to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Michael C Hall.

1.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** TBA. **4.00** House Doctor. A cottage with too many personal touches. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Film: Puss in Boots: The Three Diablos (2012) **7.10** B.O.B.'s Big Break **7.25** Megamind: The Button of Doom **7.40** Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death **8.10** Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) **10.00** Tataru **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **11.50** Family Guy **12.15** Tataru **12.55** Meth and Madness in Mexico: Stacey Dooley Investigates **1.55** Bluestone 42 **2.25** TBA **2.40** Tataru **3.20** Kiki Magic **3.50** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Horizon: Seeing Stars **8.00** Voyager: To the Final Frontier **9.00** Do We Really Need the Moon? **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Biggest Band Break Ups and Make Ups **11.30** More Dangerous Songs: And the Banned Played On **12.30** Tubular Bells: The Mike Oldfield Story **1.30** Horizon: Seeing Stars **2.30** Voyager: To the Final Frontier **3.30** The Sky at Night **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.35 Take Me Out **12.45** Scorpion **1.45** Film: Honey (2003) **3.40** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **5.35** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** Film: The Back-up Plan (2010) **10.10** Film: The Bourne Identity (2002) **12.30** Film: Almost Married (2014)

ITV3

11.20 A Touch of Frost **1.30** Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **3.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.45** Inspector Morse **8.00** Appointment **9.00** Film: Gosford Park (2001) **11.50** Film: Angela's Ashes (1999) **2.30** The John Thaw Story **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.05 Shed and Buried **12.05** Pawn Stars **3.50** Film: The Apollonia (1966) **5.55** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **11.10** Film: Doom (2005) **1.15** Hell on Wheels

E4

12.00 Revenge **1.00** TBA **2.55** Rude (ish) Tube Story **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.50** Film: The Apollonia (1966) **5.55** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **11.10** Film: Doom (2005) **1.15** Hell on Wheels

Film4

11.00 TBA **1.00** Laputa: Castle in the Sky (1986) **3.35** Horton Hears a Who! (2008) **5.15** Inspector Gadget (1999) **6.55** Drilbit Taylor (2008) **9.00** Transporter 3 (2008) **11.05** Copycat (1995) **1.30** The Wind Rises (2013) **3.30** Close

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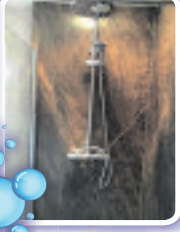
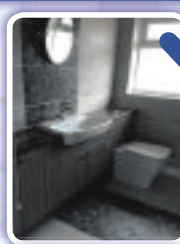
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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Vantage Point, Channel 5, 10.55pm
An assassination attempt is made on the life of the US president during a terrorism summit. The story unfolds from several perspectives, including that of the secret service agents charged with protecting the head of state, a news producer covering the event and a man in the crowd who may have caught the perpetrator on camera. Thriller, starring Dennis Quaid, Matthew Fox and William Hurt. (2008)

TUESDAY
Moonlight Mile, BBC1, 11.35pm
A man who is distraught after his fiancée's murder goes to stay with her parents, while they sort out her belongings and cancel the wedding arrangements. However, he feels guilt and suffers more emotional turmoil when he starts to fall for another woman. Drama set in the 1970s, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Ellen Pompeo and Dustin Hoffman. (2002)



Vantage Point, Monday, Channel 5, 10.55pm

WEDNESDAY
Wild Hogs, BBC1, 11.15pm
Four friends going through midlife crises decide to dust off their old motorcycles and hit the open road on a 2,000-mile cross-country trip. However, a run-in with a biker gang disrupts their carefree adventure. Comedy, starring Tim Allen. (2007)

THURSDAY
Look Again, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman survives an encounter in her home with a masked intruder, who murders her partner. The police quickly apprehend a suspect, but she believes they have arrested someone innocent. When she meets her friend's new man, she becomes convinced he is the real killer. Thriller, starring Morena Baccarin. (2011)

FRIDAY
Sex Drive, Channel 4, 12.20am
Sex-starved teenager Ian meets a woman on the internet who agrees to relieve him of his virginity. To reach his date with destiny, he steals his brother's car and embarks on a disastrous trip across America, accompanied by his womanising friend and the girl of his dreams. Comedy, starring Josh Zuckerman. (2008)

The day of execution arrives for Tommy

So far, 2015 is shaping up to be a good year for period dramas, whether it's BBC Two's prestigious adaptation of Wolf Hall, or viewers swooning over the shirtless scything action in Poldark.

Banished, which follows the first prisoners sent to Australia in 1788 and their battle to survive, hasn't made quite so many headlines. However, as we reach the final episode this week, it has offered plenty of drama and, as you'd expect given its premise and the fact that it was written by Cracker creator Jimmy McGovern, plenty of grit.

Actor Julian Rhind-Tutt, who stars as convict Tommy Barrett, certainly seems glad that Banished hasn't gone in for the pristine costumes and sweeping romance of some other dramas – for a start, it meant he was cast again type.

He's explains: "It was a very interesting opportunity to play a convict. Tommy is more of a manly man than any role I've had the chance to play recently. I've been playing aristocratic people,

politicians, advisors, people like that. But Sita [Williams], our producer who I worked with 15 years ago kindly remembered that there are other areas that we might like to explore, and so she thought it would be interesting for me to have a look at Tommy Barrett."

In fact it seems just being on the set was an education: "I read that they sent these 700-odd people and 300 soldiers out to Australia with only six scythes. And with that they were expected to start their own agricultural community. There is, of course, a valid historical opinion that the authorities didn't really care that much about what happened to them.

"But what struck me most often as I stood on the set – surrounded by only a small collection of tawdry canvas tents and the most basic amenities to survive – was how swiftly and miraculously today's modern metropolis of Sydney has evolved."

Rhind-Tutt even picked up a few new survival skills of his own to put on his CV. He says: "To a full driving

licence and scuba diving I'll be adding 'axe work' – I had excellent training from some real Australian men, and I can now split kindling wood with some degree of efficiency.

"I can also say I have worked with leeches. It's the moment where they actually suck the blood and engorge themselves that you have to get over psychologically, but I tried it in good heart as part of our many adventures there."

But will he get to put those skills to use if Banished comes back for a second series?

It's not looking promising, as Tommy shares a tender embrace with his wife Elizabeth on the morning of his hanging. They are aware it could be their last moments together, but not everyone is ready to give up hope, as James Freeman pleads with the Governor to spare his friend's life, and the Reverend Johnson prevails upon Private Buckley to forgive his attacker. However, it's Spragg who's taking the most direct action as he fires up the convicts to make it clear how they feel about the execution...



David Wenham stars in Banished, BBC2, Thursday, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Inside Harley Street BBC2, 9pm
Film-maker Vanessa Engle is known for making insightful slice-of-life documentaries focusing on everything from dog-walkers and slimmers to orthodox Jews, feminism and people's incomes – always, she approaches her subjects in the same non-judgmental manner, which seems to put people at ease. That's ideal for this new three-part series shining a light on the supposedly exclusive world of private medical care, where she finds not only patients who are wealthy, but also others whose care is paid for by foreign governments or in some cases by charities. It seems that the people who frequent central London's famous street and its surrounding health facilities don't always fit the stereotype of rich, image-conscious celebs.

Code of a Killer ITV, 9pm
The main suspect is released to a storm of controversy, and with the killer of the two schoolgirls still at large, Baker proposes the ambitious plan of testing the blood of every male in the area between the ages of 18 and 34 – the world's first DNA manhunt. But he and Jeffreys face huge opposition from sceptics within the police and the community,

as well as the establishment. Can they get everyone to believe in the science? David Threlfall and John Simm star in the conclusion of the two-part drama.

TUESDAY
Live UEFA Champions League ITV, 7.30pm
Atletico Madrid v Real Madrid (Kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the quarter-final first-leg match at the Estadio Vicente Calderon, as the Spanish rivals meet in a repeat of last season's final. Real won on that occasion and are ahead of Atletico in the La Liga standings, but they have come off second best in meetings between the two this season, with the hosts having beaten Carlo Ancelotti's men twice in the league and in the Copa del Rey. Mark Pougatch presents, with commentary by Clive Tyldesley and Andy Townsend, and analysis by Paul Scholes, Roy Keane and Lee Dixon.

WEDNESDAY
The Delivery Man ITV, 9.30pm
New series. Comedy starring Darren Boyd as a disillusioned policeman who leaves his job to

train as a midwife on a busy maternity ward. Finding himself in a predominately female world, Matthew is soon joined by best pal and ex-cop Ian (Paddy McGuinness), who is hired as the hospital's security guard. In the first episode, a teenage dad tries to visit his pregnant girlfriend without her parents finding out his identity, and new boy Matthew must decide whose side to take. Co-starring Fay Ripley, Alex Macqueen, Aisling Bea and Llewella Gideon.

THURSDAY
The Secret Life of the Pub Channel 4, 10pm
It's been a tough few years for the pub industry – something that's been blamed on everything from cheap supermarket alcohol to the smoking ban – but it seems that despite it all, the local boozer still remains an institution, with the average British man spending a year

and a half of his life propping up the bar. But apart from drinking, just what to do they there? Is it all soul-searching and slanging matches, as the soaps would have you believe, or is banter the order of the day? This documentary rigs the Lord Nelson in London's East End with cameras to find out what the men, including old mates Cudge and Dodds and city boys Joel and George really talk about when women are not around.

FRIDAY
Secrets of Great British Castles Channel 5, 8pm
For thousands of kids each year, Warwick Castle is a great excuse for a day trip from school. Get beyond the stuff some of us remember from our youth, and there's a lot more to this magnificent edifice than meets the eye, as historian Dan Jones reveals in this episode. For centuries it was a poisoned chalice to the Earls of Warwick who resided there, and its walls reverberate with stories of bloodshed, betrayal, murder and financial ruin. In 1068, a castle was built on the site by William the Conqueror, but 200 years later, the Beauchamp family turned it into the lavish stone fortress that still stands today. Dan sees for himself the incredible wealth and power the Beauchamps had during their 150-year dynasty.



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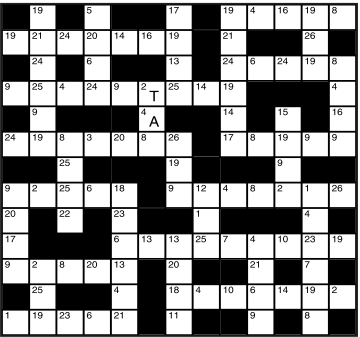
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	S	W	V	M	I	J	N	Q	X	H	O	K
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	U	C	A	L	Z	T	Y	G	D	P	F	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

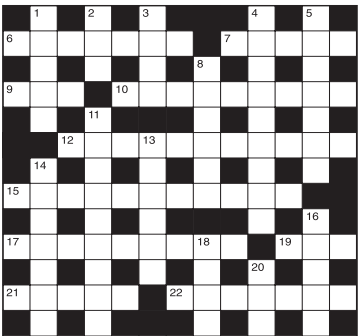
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 6. Sarcastic, witty fellow? (7)
- 7. Companies producing manuscript on tree (5)
- 9 & 2Dn. Not times past for the Poles? (3,3)
- 10. For example, rogue is out to be shocking (9)
- 12. Finished everywhere in company (3,4,4)
- 15. Point vessel out to fellow in skilful display (11)
- 17. Doctor hasn't got a smoothing tool or a flying machine (9)
- 19. Became master of 16 without me (3)
- 21. Again a manuscript takes lots of paper (5)
- 22. Wet seen to remove bitterness (7)

Down

- 1. A thumping good drinker? (5)
- 2. See 9 Across
- 3. Cosy now weapons have been put up (4)
- 4. Be untruthful during delay and prepare to ambush (3,2,4)
- 5. Sums of money required because horse put inside (7)
- 8. They may currently show consumption (6)
- 11. Do they light underground tunnels? (4-5)
- 13. Ring to recover by word of mouth (6)
- 14. Marksman could well be hot and sore (7)
- 16. Portent to the west for humans (5)
- 18. Creature went wrong... (4)
- 20. ...became fresh, having lost tail (3)



Quick Clues:

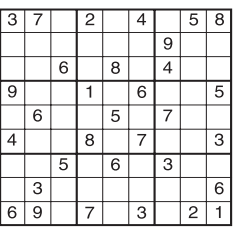
Across

- 6. Scorn (7)
- 7. Handed out (5)
- 9. Embrace (3)
- 10. Agree (9)
- 12. Deceive (11)
- 15. Piercing (11)
- 17. Competitor (9)
- 19. Wager (3)
- 21. Happening (5)
- 22. Opposed (7)

Down

- 1. Ill-feeling (5)
- 2. Strange (3)
- 3. Quoit (4)
- 4. Repulsive (9)
- 5. Pacify (7)
- 8. Top (6)
- 11. Amusing (9)
- 13. Leap (6)
- 14. Go round (7)
- 16. Stop (5)
- 18. Rim (4)
- 20. Excavate (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	4	7	1	8	2	3	9	6
1	2	3	5	3	9	4	7	9
9	3	8	7	4	6	2	1	5
4	1	5	9	7	8	6	3	2
3	8	2	6	5	1	7	4	9
7	6	9	4	2	3	8	5	1
2	9	4	3	6	5	1	8	7
6	7	1	8	9	4	5	2	3
8	5	3	2	1	7	9	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Radiolocation; 8 Distance; 9 Edge; 10 Gallic; 12 Nature; 14 Second; 16 Docile; 18 Flat; 20 Impolite; 22 Making believe. Down: 1 Badinage; 2 Pistol; 3 Plan; 4 Screened; 5 Street; 6 Long; 11 Codling; 13 Relative; 15 Obtain; 17 Collier; 19 Lead; 21 Peer. QUICK - Across: 7 Reprehensible; 8 Momentum; 9 Gate; 10 Veneer; 12 Career; 14 Stream; 16 Leader; 18 Chic; 20 Magician; 22 Comprehension. Down: 1 Redolent; 2 Grieve; 3 Shut; 4 Inimical; 5 Linger; 6 Clot; 11 Remember; 13 Elevator; 15 Escape; 17 Accuse; 19 Hoop; 21 Glen.

Quiz

- 1. Which Athenian philosopher died by drinking Hemlock?
- 2. What nationality was Christopher Columbus?
- 3. What is the largest city in Tanzania?
- 4. Which Tudor warship is in a dry dock in Portsmouth?
- 5. What was the main river of Hades in Greek mythology?
- 6. Who created Maigret?
- 7. What sort of creature is an axolotl?
- 8. Who was the first woman MP to sit in the House of Commons?
- 9. Where did Davy Crockett die?
- 10. Who wrote The Murders in the Rue Morgue?

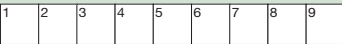
Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Providence; 2 John Stuart Mill; 3 Herman Melville; 4 John Candy; 5 Gunmetal; 6 Eleanor of Aquitaine; 7 Hyde Park; 8 Council; 9 Ash Wednesday; 10 Alaska. Niner: MANDIBLES

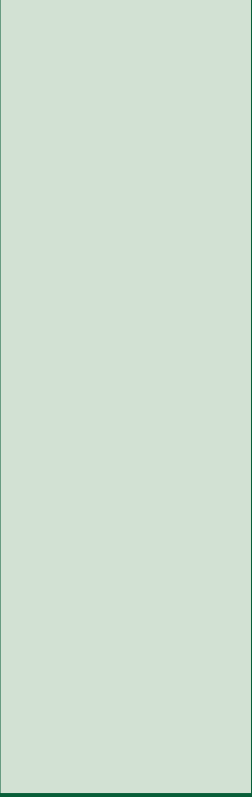
Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7983 gives a bird,
62185 gives another bird,
7654 gives an animal.



Thinking space



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There is a spacious through lounge/dining area, with patio doors and laminate flooring, extended kitchen with a dining area with part tiled/part laminate flooring.

Upstairs there are three bedrooms with laminate flooring and a bathroom with a bath with a shower.

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LOT 1 Kelway Avenue Great Barr

Viewings: 13th April at 12.45 pm



Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac on the Park Farm Estate this detached family residence is in need of complete refurbishment and offers an ideal opportunity for development with all amenities close at hand the property comprises:- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Sep W.C, Garage, Fore and Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £130,000 PLUS

LOT 4 Beaton Close Willenhall

Viewings: 13th April at 2.30 pm



Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac ideally suited to an investor buyer this end of terrace property has double glazing and gas central heating (not tested) but does require basic refurbishment internally. Conveniently located close to all amenities, the property comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen Area, Conservatory Three Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £55,000 - £65,000

LOT 5 Butts Road Walsall

Viewings: 13th April at 11am



This first floor flat offers spacious well planned accommodation benefiting from gas central heating via a Ferrol boiler and is predominantly uPVC double glazed making an ideal investment opportunity, offering a good potential investment yield. The property is situated within a short distance of Walsall town centre and comprises:- Communal Entrance Hallway and staircase, Reception Hall with store cupboard and access to Lounge, Kitchen access to balcony, Bedroom One with range of wardrobes, Bedroom Two, Bedroom Three, Bathroom.

●Guide Price £30,000 PLUS

LOT 6 Floyds Lane Walsall

Viewings: 13th April at Midday



A good sized, traditional semi detached house in this popular and convenient location in need of considerable improvement, but offering an excellent opportunity to the investment purchaser. Having uPVC double glazing and gas central heating the property includes:- Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Sun Room/Utility, three Bedrooms, Bathroom, rear garden with sheds and wide side area with potential for a garage and fore garden for parking.

●Guide Price £90,000 PLUS

LOT 7 Thetford Road Great Barr

Viewings: 13th April at 1.15 pm



Conveniently situated in a popular and desirable residential area with amenities and transport links close by this semi detached property boasts gas central heating and double glazing but is in need of a certain amount of modernisation and upgrading. With a double garage at the rear the property comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Lounge Area, Dining Room and Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £95,000 PLUS

LOT 8 Clarkes Lane Willenhall

Viewings: 13th April at 3pm



A good sized traditional semi detached house in this convenient location having been extended, but requiring certain modernisation. Having been well maintained the property is decoratively very dated and as such requires improvement but could be an ideal investment or family home. Having gas central heating and uPVC double glazing the property includes:- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and 3 Bedrooms.

●Guide Price £85,000 PLUS

LOT 9 Perseverance House, Ida Road Walsall

Appointment through Auctioneers



These four Victorian terraced properties which have been extended at ground floor level currently provide office and meeting room facilities, with double glazing and gas central heating the development offers a number of uses and needs to be viewed internally to appreciate the scope of the descriptive accommodation:- Entrance Hall, Office, Three Rooms, Kitchen, Meeting Room, Office/Reception, Office, Meeting Room, Computer Room, Store, Male and Female W.C.'s, First Floor:- Ten Rooms and W.C. Viewings: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 0121 289 3535. Buyers Premium: A Buyers Premium of £300.00 (inclusive of V.A.T.) will be charged in addition to the Auctioneers Administration Fee.

●Guide Price £245,000 PLUS

LOT 10 High View, Highgate Road Walsall

Appointment through Auctioneers



This well maintained two bedroom second floor ex show apartment is for the over 55's only and is situated in a popular modern residential block and offers the discerning purchaser secure living accommodation. Offering ease of access into Walsall Town Centre with buses passing regularly where shopping and banking facilities are readily available. The accommodation also offers a safe manager Monday to Friday. Communal laundrette with washing machines and tumble dryers is available for residents along with communal lounge and conservatory. The property requires internal inspection to appreciate the double glazed living accommodation which in greater detail comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Two Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £47,500 PLUS

LOT 11 Beacon Street Walsall

Appointment through Auctioneers



Traditionally styled Victorian mid terraced property situated in the sought after Chucky area of Walsall with all amenities close at hand. Offering an ideal investment opportunity currently let on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy for 6 months from 3/10/14 at £500 per calendar month. With gas fired central heating and double glazing the property comprises:- Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore Garden, Enclosed Yard and Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £60,000 PLUS

LOT 12 Woodend Handsworth

Viewings: 14th April at 11am



A semi detached property "ripe for renovation" convenient to all local amenities, schools and public transport services and within easy access to motorway networks. Offering excellent scope for improvement the property comprises:- Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Sep W.C, Front Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £100,000-£110,000

LOT 15 The Crescent Walsall

Viewings: 13th April at 9.30 am



Delightfully located in a popular and sought after residential area of Walsall, this traditionally styled semi detached residence offers well planned spacious accommodation which is in need of some modernisation and improvement. The gas centrally heated extended accommodation has a cottage feel about it and comprises of the following:- Enclosed Porch, Guest W.C., Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Garage, Four Bedrooms and Bathroom.

●Guide Price £180,000 PLUS

LOT 16 Halesowen Street Rowley Regis

Appointment through Auctioneers



This substantial semi detached property is currently split into three self contained units and benefits from a good size plot with side driveway leading to parking area and access to row of four garages. Offering an ideal investment opportunity with the additional possibility of development potential, the property gives a potential income of approximately £15,000 per annum.

●Guide Price £220,000 PLUS

LOT 18 The Range Streety

Appointment through Auctioneers



Currently let on a 6 month Assured Shorthold Tenancy from 17/10/14 at £575.00 per calendar month (the tenant has however indicated that they are wishing to sign a new contract for at least 12 months) this purpose built ground floor flat is an ideal investment opportunity. Having the unusual advantage of it's own front door leading onto The Range as well as communal hallway with access to rear parking area. Recently constructed, the property has been delightfully appointed and maintained and offers, well planned spacious accommodation with the benefit of full gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing. Local amenities are all close at hand with public transport services passing close by to Aldridge Centre.

●Guide Price £100,000 PLUS

LOT 19 Borneo Street Walsall

Viewings: 13th April at 11.30am



Situated in the popular Butts area of Walsall within a short distance of the town centre with all facilities provided this mid terraced property is in need of complete modernisation and improvement offering an ideal investment opportunity or builder purchase the property comprises:- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Lobby and Access to W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £60,000 PLUS

LOT 20 Rose Cottage, Hallchurch Road Brierley Hill

Appointment through Auctioneers



This traditional pair of semi detached properties is currently being used as office/meeting rooms and sits on a good size plot behind a tarmac/adam parking area in a convenient location between Brierley Hill and Dudley with Merry Hill Shopping Centre close by. Offering itself for its current use or for conversion back to two residential dwellings the gas centrally heated and double glazed extended accommodation comprises:- (Number 27) Reception Hall, Kitchen, Plant Room, Extended Office Room, Three Rooms and W.C. (Number 29) Reception Hall, Extended Disabled W.C. Three Offices, W.C., Meeting Room. First Floor: Three Rooms and W.C.

●Guide Price £150,000 PLUS

LOT 21 Weston Street Walsall

9th and 13th April at 10.30 am



This Victorian traditionally styled mid terraced residence is situated in a popular residential area and offers scope for further improvement and is suitable for a first time buyer or investor. With all amenities close at hand, the gas centrally heated accommodation comprises of the following:- Front Living Room, Rear Living Room, Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Bathroom and Two Bedrooms.

●Guide Price £55,000 PLUS

LOT 22 The Crescent Walsall

Viewings: 13th April at 10.00 am



Victorian mid terraced property with double glazing and gas fired central heating, situated in the Chucky area of Walsall close to all amenities and Walsall Town Centre. In need of some modernisation and improvement the property offers tremendous scope and would make an ideal purchase for a home owner or investor. The spacious well planned accommodation comprises:- Reception Hall, Lounge, Living Room, W.C., Kitchen area, Breakfast Area, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom and Attic Room.

●Guide Price £110,000 PLUS

LOT 23 Kinnerley Street Walsall

Viewings: 13th April at 10.30am



In need of complete modernisation this Victorian mid terraced property is situated in the Chucky area of Walsall with amenities close at hand the accommodation comprises:- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Outbuildings, Yard and Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £40,000 PLUS

LOT 24 Kinnerley Street Walsall

Viewings: 13th April at 10.30am



In need of complete modernisation this Victorian mid terraced property is situated in the Chucky area of Walsall with all amenities close at hand, the accommodation comprises:- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, Outbuildings, Yard and Rear Garden.

●Guide Price £40,000 PLUS

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide



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Addison Road Wednesbury



Offers around £115,000

Very well presented end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and fitted intruder alarm. This improved and upgraded property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining area, extended kitchen, refitted bathroom, 3 bedrooms (master with ensuite shower room), rear garden, off road parking, car port with workshop. Energy rating

Thorpe Road Walsall



Offers around £95,000

A middle terrace family home having the benefit of planning permission for a single storey rear extension, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, refitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating D.

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Rosehill Willenhall



Offers around £82,500

An improved and upgraded two bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for landlord or first time buyer this lovely property further comprises, lounge, dining room, cellar, refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted bathroom with shower and rear garden. Energy rating D.

All Saints Road Wednesbury



Offers around £75,000

●●OPEN TOO OFFERS AND MUST BE SOLD●●
A good sized middle terrace property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating D.

Beacon View Road



●●SUIT LANDLORD, CURRENTLY LET OUT AT ?375PCM●● A 9th Floor 2 bedroom apartment in a popular residential location. This spacious property comprises of reception hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, 2 bedrooms, family bathroom, communal parking. The property also benefits from double glazing and electric heating. Energy rating D.

Spring Road Sheffield



Offers around £144,500

A 3 bedroom detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, 3 double bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating E.

Stafford Close Bloxwich



Offers around £225,000

A three bedroom detached bungalow having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. located at the end of a cul-de-sac the property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, verandah (utility room), conservatory, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, detached garage and off road parking for several vehicles. Energy rating E.

St. Johns Road Pelsall



Offers around £169,995

A superb improved and upgraded 3 bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, through lounge, sitting room, fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room/guest W.C, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking. Awaiting energy rating.

Wharfedale Street Wednesbury



Offers around £125,000

A well presented good size 3/4 bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely family home further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, three bedrooms, attic room (used as bedroom four) and rear garden with outbuilding. Energy rating D.

Yale Road Willenhall



Offers around £90,000

A well presented first floor 2 bedroom apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property is currently let out at ?475pcm and further comprising, reception hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances 2 bedrooms, family bathroom and allocated parking space. Energy rating B.

Victoria Avenue Bloxwich



Offers around £95,000

A three bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, guest W.C, three bedrooms, family shower room and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.



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- Deepmore Avenue, Walsall
- Three Bed Semi-Detached
 - Entrance Hall
 - Lounge
 - Extended Kitchen/Diner
 - Utility Room
 - Sorry No DHSS, Pets, Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £550



- Keepers Gate, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Apartment
 - Ground Floor
 - Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
 - Master Bedroom/Ensuite
 - Bathroom
 - Intercom Access

Monthly Rental Of £550



- Hawbush Road, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Terraced House
 - Large Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Utility
 - Family Bathroom
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £525



- Eagleworks Drive, Walsall
- Well Kept Two Bedroom FURNISHED Apartment
 - Lounge & Fitted Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom & Ensuite
 - Allocated Parking
 - Quiet Cul-de-sac location

Monthly Rental Of £525



- Lancaster Place, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - D. Glazing & G.C. Heating
 - Front & Rear Gardens
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Kitchen/Utility
 - DHSS Accepted
 - Lounge

Monthly Rental Of £500



- New Forest Road, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Recently Fitted Bathroom
 - Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £500



- Cope Street, Walsall
- Three Bed Terrace
 - Two Reception Rooms
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom
 - Double Glazing
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495



- Cresswell Crescent, Bloxwich
- THREE Bedroom Terraced
 - Front Reception Room
 - Lounge with French Doors
 - Bathroom with Separate Shower Cubical
 - Double Glazing
 - New Gas Central Heating

Monthly Rental Of £495



- Millfield Avenue, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen / Diner
 - Family Bathroom
 - Rear Utility Area & WC
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £495



- Terret Close, Walsall
- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
 - Lounge with French Doors
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Bathroom & Ensuite
 - Allocated Parking
 - Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £475



- Alderley Crescent, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Terraced Property
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Downstairs WC
 - Lounge
 - Family Bathroom
 - Family Bathroom
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £475



- Tame Street East, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi - Detached
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom
 - Off Road Parking
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £475



- Walker Road, Walsall
- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
 - Open Plan Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom
 - Allocated Parking
 - DHSS Accepted.

Monthly Rental Of £450



- Kingfisher Court, Willenhall
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
 - Lounge with Laminate Flooring
 - Modern Kitchen
 - Gas Central Heating
 - Double Glazing
 - Allocated Parking

Monthly Rental Of £450



- Taverners Close, Willenhall
- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Double Bedroom
 - Bathroom
 - Front Garden
 - Off Road Parking
 - Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating



Monthly Rental Of £425



- Waterfront Way, Walsall
- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
 - Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
 - Bathroom with Shower over Bath
 - Allocated Parking
 - Secure Gated Entrance
 - Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425



- Gallery Square, Walsall
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
 - Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
 - Shower Room
 - Town Centre Location
 - Close to all Transport Links
 - Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £425



- Lichfield Road, Walsall
- Second Floor Apartment
 - Main Transport Links To Walsall
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Sorry No DHSS
 - Sorry No Pets/Smokers
 - Communal Entrance

Monthly Rental Of £415



- Bloxwich Road, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
 - Private Entrance
 - Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom
 - Parking Space
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £400



- Bridge Street, Walsall
- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
 - Large Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
 - Secure Off Road Parking
 - Town Centre Location
 - Close to all transport links & amenities

Monthly Rental Of £400



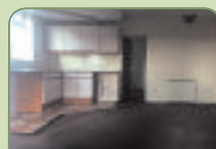
- Dartmouth Avenue, Walsall
- Two Bedroomed Property
 - Modern Fitted Kitchen
 - Modern Bathroom
 - Lounge
 - Double Glazing
 - Electric Heating

Monthly Rental Of £395



- Bloxwich Road, Walsall
- One Bedroom Flat
 - Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Bathroom
 - Electric Heating & Gas Central Heating
 - Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £380



- Dartmouth Avenue, Walsall
- One Bedroom Property
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Bathroom
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £375



- The Exchange, Walsall
- First Floor One Bedroom Flat
 - Above Retail Premises
 - Bloxwich High Street Location
 - Lounge/Kitchen
 - Shower Room
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350



- Moat Road, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Flat
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Shower Room & WC
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350



- Barracks Lane, Walsall
- One Bedroom Bungalow
 - Large Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Shower Room
 - Double Glazing
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £325



- Green Lane, Walsall
- Self Contained One Bedroom Flat
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Lounge
 - Shower Room
 - Large Hallway/Landing
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £325



- Sandwell Street, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Flat
 - First Floor
 - Kitchen
 - Bathroom
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Close To Town Centre

Monthly Rental Of £300



- Barracks Lane, Walsall
- One Bedroom Flat above Retail Premises
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Shower Room
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Accepted.

Monthly Rental Of £300

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LET!

- Water Reed Grove, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Fully Furnished House
 - Cloakroom / WC
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen/Diner
 - Family Bathroom & Ensuite Shower Room
 - Viewing Essential

Monthly Rental Of £725



LET!

- Station Road, Walsall
- Popular Aldridge Location
 - Three Bed Detached
 - Two Large Reception Rooms
 - Large Kitchen
 - Three Double Bedrooms
 - Master Ensuite Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £650



LET!

- Butts Close, Norton Canes
- Three Bedroom Detached
 - Lounge
 - Dining Room
 - Kitchen Diner
 - Three Double Bedrooms
 - Family Bathroom

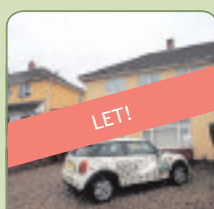
Monthly Rental Of £625



LET!

- Red Brook Road, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi
 - Lounge, Diner
 - Family Bathroom
 - Kitchen
 - Front & Rear Garden
 - Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £600



LET!

- Mob Lane, Walsall
- Large Four Bed Semi Detached
 - Fields To Front
 - Three Receptions
 - Conservatory
 - Ensuite to Downstairs Bedroom
 - DHSS Considered

Monthly Rental Of £595



LET!

- Birchfield Way, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Terraced Property
 - Through Lounge
 - Fitted Kitchen & Utility
 - Conservatory
 - Family Bathroom
 - DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £525



LET!

- Sneyd Lane, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen/Diner
 - New Carpets Throughout
 - DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets or Smokers
 - Extensive Rear Garden

Monthly Rental Of £515



LET!

- Sneyd Hall Road, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Entrance Porch/Hall
 - Kitchen/Diner
 - Lounge
 - Side Passageway
 - Utility Room

Monthly Rental Of £500



LET!

- Telford Road, Walsall
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Rear Lobby
 - Family Bathroom
 - Shower Room
 - DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets.

Monthly Rental Of £500.00



LET!

- Peake Road, Walsall Wood
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom
 - Front And Rear Gardens
 - Off Road Parking

£500 PCM



LET!

- Cresswell Crescent, Bloxwich
- THREE Bedroom Terraced
 - Front Reception Room
 - Lounge with French Doors
 - Bathroom with Separate Shower Cubical
 - Double Glazing
 - New Gas Central Heating

Monthly Rental Of £495



LET!

- Windrush Close, Walsall
- Two Bedroom 2nd Floor Apartment
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom
 - Allocated Parking
 - Quiet Secluded Location
 - Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

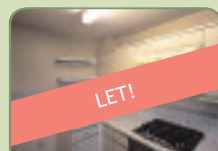
Monthly Rental Of £495



LET!

- Signal Grove, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Quadrant
 - Lounge with Laminate Flooring
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Family Bathroom
 - Allocated Parking Spaces
 - DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets

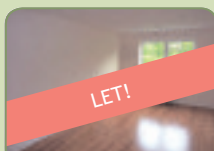
Monthly Rental Of £475.00



LET!

- Edinburgh Lane, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
 - Entrance Hall
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Lounge
 - Family Bathroom
 - Front & Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £475



LET!

- Ladypool Close, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Maisonette
 - New Fitted Bathroom
 - Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
 - New fitted Kitchen
 - Master Bedroom with built in Robe
 - Hallway with ample storage cupboards

Monthly Rental Of £475



LET!

- Wyre Close, Walsall Wood
- Two bedroom end
 - Part gas central heating
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Electric Bedroom with built in Robe
 - Bathroom
 - Rear Garden

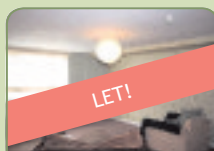
Monthly Rental Of £475



LET!

- Barrow Close, Walsall Wood
- two bedroom first floor apartment
 - Economy 7 Heating
 - double glazing
 - Lounge Diner
 - Kitchen
 - Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £475



LET!

- High Street, Walsall
- Two Bedroom Flat above Retail Premises
 - Large Lounge
 - Large Bathroom
 - Fitted Kitchen
 - Electric Heating
 - DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £400



LET!

- Bloxwich Road, Walsall
- One Bedroom Flat
 - Lounge
 - Kitchen
 - Bathroom
 - Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
 - Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £380



LET!

- Market Place, Willenhall
- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
 - Lounge with Feature Fire Place
 - Modern Fitted Kitchen
 - Modern Bathroom
 - Close to all Amenities
 - DHSS Accepted, Sorry No Pets

Monthly Rental Of £350

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Ambrose Close
Willenhall



2 Bedroom mid terraced house with no upward chain, entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, downstairs w.c, bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway and rear garden, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000

Bridge Road
Walsall



AN UPPER FLOOR APARTMENT OF CONTEMPORARY STYLE WHICH OFFERS WELL PRESENTED ACCOMMODATION THROUGHOUT. The property further features two double bedrooms, good size breakfast kitchen, lounge incorporating dining area, modern bathroom & gated parking. Viewing essential to appreciate.

OFFERS AROUND: £92,500

Portway Road
Bilston



3 Bedroom semi detached house with no upward chain, entrance hall, lounge/diner, modern kitchen, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, driveway, front and rear gardens, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £138,950

Durberville Road
Wolverhampton



br- Well Presented and Extended Middle Terrace Residence close to all local amenities and transport links. UPVC Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating and No Upward Chain Briefly Comprising: Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Lobby, Ground Floor Bathroom, 3 Bedrooms, Shower Room, Front Driveway and Good Size Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £117,500

Old Birchills
Walsall



WELL APPOINTED BRAND NEW HOME - RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED & AVAILABLE TO VIEW NOW. Three bedroom semi detached property, first floor bathroom with white suite, fitted kitchen & ground floor guest WC. Early inspection advised.

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

Williams Close
Willenhall



Well presented Semi Detached residence situated in a popular cul de sac location in Short Heath. Benefiting from UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating and No Upward Chain, briefly comprising: Entrance Hallway, "L" Shaped Lounge, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage.

OFFERS AROUND: £150,000

Avon Grove
Walsall



br-Well-presented semi detached bungalow in a quite location close to all amenities and transport links. Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing this spacious bungalow briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge with feature fireplace, Fitted Kitchen with integrated appliances, 2 Bedrooms, Shower Room, Front Driveway and Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Kestrel Grove
Willenhall



4 Bedroom detached house on Coppice Farm, entrance porch and hallway, lounge/diner, refitted modern kitchen, utility, refitted family bathroom and refitted en-suite to main bedroom, garage and driveway, refitted upper double glazing, central heating, front and rear gardens, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £215,000

Druid Park Road
Willenhall



Immaculate 2 bedroom semi detached house in a sought after location, entrance porch, lounge, modern fitted breakfast kitchen, large conservatory, modern bathroom, double glazing and central heating, garage and driveway, rear garden, viewing recommended, call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £141,500

Meldon Drive
Bilston



A Well presented three bedrooms terraced house situated within a popular development, accommodation comprises of three bedrooms, lounge, dining, fitted kitchen and family bathroom. The property also benefits from off road parking, double glazing, central heating and rear garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000

Field Close
Bilston



Paul Dubberley are pleased to offer for sale this newly built 2 bedroom semi-detached house by Morris Homes, which is gated and benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing, intruder alarm, fitted carpets throughout, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, master bedroom with door opening onto large 1st floor terrace balcony, lounge with french doors opening onto private rear garden and allocated parking space.

OFFERS AROUND: £108,950

Linton Croft
Bilston



3 Bedroom semi detached house with larger than average garden, lounge, modern kitchen, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, larger than average garden, parking call Paul Dubberley to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £99,000

Archer Road
Walsall



br-Good Size Extended End Terrace Residence with further potential for extensions (subject to planning permission) Close to all local amenities and transport links, UPVC Double Glazed and Gas Central Heating and Offering No Upward Chain the property briefly comprises: Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Utility Room, Shower Room, 3 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Paved Fore Garden & Good size Rear Garden.

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

Beacon Street
Walsall



br-Refurbished End Terraced residence ideal for First Time Buyers which benefits from UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating & having re-fitted Kitchen and Bathroom. Spacious family accommodation briefly comprising: 2 Reception Rooms, Re fitted Kitchen with integrated oven/hob, 3 Bedrooms, Re fitted Bathroom with shower, Front & Enclosed Private Rear Garden. Must be viewed to appreciate the

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000

Scholars Walk
Walsall



This MODERN SEMI DETACHED HOUSE offers neatly arranged accommodation situated within a cul-de-sac location. The property features a master bedroom with en-suite shower area, two further bedrooms, lounge, breakfast kitchen, conservatory & first floor family bathroom. Externally, there is allocated parking for 2 vehicles & a rear garden. Viewing essential.

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950

Wareham Close
Walsall



A semi detached house set within a modern development which may appeal to both FIRST TIME BUYERS & LANDLORDS. The two bedroom property offers neatly arranged accommodation and is well worth an internal inspection to appreciate.

OFFERS AROUND: £79,950



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Autonomous driving now even closer

By James Parker

Autonomous driving has been much in the news recently but it's nothing new – Mercedes-Benz have been developing it for years.

The marque has demonstrated a commitment to autonomous driving for 30 years and now an autonomous future is closer than it has ever been before with a range of semi-autonomous technology available across the line-up.

This semi-autonomous technology – under the banner 'Intelligent Drive' – is available across the range from C-Class to S-Class.

Examples include DISTRONIC PLUS with Steering Assist and Stop&Go Pilot – the vehicle automatically brakes and accelerates based on the car in front and can even follow the car ahead without any steering input from the driver, whilst Active Parking Assist with PARKTRONIC helps detect suitable parking spaces and can automatically manoeuvre the vehicle into the space.

While this technology brings Mercedes one step closer to an autonomous future this mobility revolution has to take place in a series of steps.

Despite this Mercedes-Benz has demonstrated autonomous driving capabilities since 1985 with the EUREKA-PROMETHEUS research project, S 500 INTELLIGENT DRIVE and F 015 Luxury in Motion.

1985

Daimler-Benz and a group of European Manufacturers kick-started the research into autonomous cars with the EUREKA-PROMETHEUS research project (Project for European Traffic with Highest Efficiency and Unprecedented Safety).

The project – over an eight-year period – addressed issues surrounding the future of mobility and suggested ways to improve vehicle safety, efficiency and traffic flow. The result was the VITA-vehicle (Vision Technology Application) which used miniature video cameras behind the front and rear windshields to capture the traffic around the vehicle enabling it to brake, accelerate and steer accordingly. The origins of a broad range of innovations, such as lane-change, parking assistance and navigation systems can all be traced back to this research project.

1995

An S-Class prototype test vehicle – equipped with an early supercomputer – travelled from Munich to Copenhagen almost entirely autonomously on motorways and was able to change lanes, overtake and keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.

As a result of this prototype in 1998 DISTRONIC adaptive cruise control entered production in the S-Class. From this technology Mercedes-Benz was able to develop a succession of assistance systems capable of detecting hazardous situations, warning the driver and intervening.

2010

A broad range of driver assistance system were introduced in 2010 – now under the banner 'Intelligent Drive' – enabling vehicles to detect many hazardous situations and react as the situation demands. This includes: Collision Prevention Assist – standard across the range, Active Blind Spot Assist – the system detects a vehicle in the driver's blind spot and, by means of one-sided braking can reduce the risk of collision, Active Lane Keeping Assist – which works with ESP to pull the vehicle back into its lane if the driver unintentionally crosses the lane marking and Active Parking Assist – which uses electromechanical direct steering to navigate the vehicle into a parking space.

2013

In 2013, Mercedes-Benz demonstrated that autonomous driving is already possible, even in complex traffic. The close-to-production Mercedes-Benz S 500 INTELLIGENT DRIVE completed a 62-mile journey from Mannheim to Pforzheim fully autonomously using production-based sensors – following the route taken in 1888 by Bertha Benz on the first ever long-distance car journey.

2015

With the F 015 Luxury in Motion (Pictured above in San Francisco), Mercedes-Benz demonstrates what form 'Intelligent Drive' might take in the future.

The car's role is evolving from merely a means of transport towards a comfortable place for passengers to utilise their new-found free time. The electric-hybrid system has a total range of 684-miles and can operate in manual or autonomous modes.

The driver is connected to the outside world via a choice of six screens integrated throughout the interior, controlled via eye-tracking, gesture recognition or touch. This autonomous concept car is based on a future scenario – 'Vision 2030+' – where the already limited space in today's cities becomes more restricted and autonomous driving is socially accepted.

A major part of everyday trips will be covered in autonomous mode – creating a new driving culture – freeing up time for the driver and creating a retreat for passengers.



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Sure-footed when going gets tough

By John Griffiths

SEAT's latest model is certainly different: it's the first car I've ever driven that's fitted with an altimeter!

Another gadget for drivers, or an indication that the Spanish company is currently one of the real high-flyers in the car world?

Its UK sales were up 18 per cent last year – well above the national average – thanks in no small part to the much-admired Leon.

The family hatchback was joined last year by the sporting Cupra then the ST compact estate and sales really took off.

Now there's another new version, the X-Perience: a 'life-style' estate based on the ST but with the addition of the VW Group's proven Haldex four-wheel drive system.

It also heralds the launch next year of a new to SEAT range of SUVs, due to arrive here next year, which are likely to be based on similar underpinnings.

The altimeter, of course, is a bit of a gimmick. It's part of a digital display which pops up on the Satnav screen, along with a compass, when you venture off-road where there are no roads to display.

Since the ST is already a popular model, things are looking good for SEAT's dealers as there is not too much competition in this particular class. One of those rivals, for example, is available only with a 2.5 litre petrol engine (and costs more) while the X-Perience comes with a choice of two economical diesels. Both are 2.0 litre turbocharged units, a 150PS version with six-speed manual gearbox and the up-rated 184PS engine reserved for cars with the VW Group's brilliant DSG automatic/manual transmission.

There are two trim levels, with prices ranging from £24,385 to £28,870.

While it is a 4x4, the X-Perience isn't designed as a serious mud-plugger but more of a softroader, intended for those who's work or play requires the occasional off-road foray such as forestry tracks.

Recognising that, it has 15mm extra ground clearance over the standard ST but the '4Drive' system as SEAT calls it is the latest incarnation of the Haldex system which is entirely automatic and helps to keep you safe on road in all types of weather.

Essentially all the power goes to the front wheels in normal conditions but under heavy load, or in slippery conditions such as mud, gravel, ice and snow, up to 50 per cent of the torque is transferred to the rear. Then the dynamic stability and traction control decide whether there is more grip under the left or right wheels. You can actually feel it in action on the loose surface of the forest tracks, pushing the car round the corners to counteract understeer.

SEAT's engineers have found a good compromise with the suspension and damping, so while the car feels quite dynamic on twisty B-roads you don't get your teeth rattled when you do venture onto the rough stuff. Both engines are quiet, too. Despite their differences in output, though, both are capable of averaging 57.6mpg with a CO2 rating of 129g/km.

The 150PS version is pretty quick, tackling the 0 to 62mph dash in 8.7 seconds while the uprated version with the DSG gearbox is even quicker, at an impressive 7.1 seconds.

The DSG, dual clutch transmission is a fast and 'intelligent' way of changing gears which, in my opinion, is superior to older torque converter autos – the figures illustrate that – and for enthusiastic drivers also allows for ultra quick manual changes, using 'paddles' behind the steering wheel.

The combination of higher powered engine and DSG adds around £2,500 to the showroom price, which might seem quite a jump but it also comes in the model with the highest standard equipment levels.

Like the award-winning family hatchback, on which it is based, it has plenty of room for five but with the addition of a rear cargo area for extra versatility. It holds at impressive 587 litres of luggage with five on board – more than many big saloons – extending to 1,470 litres with all three rear seats folded flat. Roof rails add to its load-carrying ability.

As the new X-Perience sits alongside the sporty Cupra as the flagship of the Leon range, equipment levels are impressive, too. Alloy wheels, cruise control, climate control, tinted rear windows, touch screen infotainment system and rear parking sensors are standard, as well as all the usual items such as electric windows and mirrors.

For safety there are seven airbags and a full range of electronic stability and traction systems, plus an electronic differential lock and 'hill hold' control.

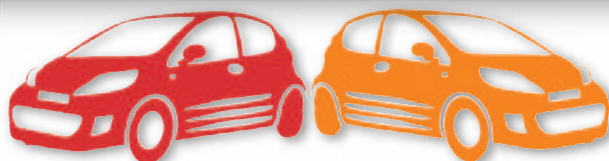
The higher grade, dubbed SE Technology, gets bigger alloys, additions to the infotainment package including touch screen controls, DAB radio plus satnav, LED headlights, 18-inch alloys, and front sports seats in alcantara and leather.

And, oh be joyful, there's a real spare wheel. Those of you who have had a puncture and whose car is supplied with a foam inflator kits instead of a spare will know what I mean.

The interior of the X-Perience is a relaxing place to be. Roomy, quiet and comfortable with easy performance will be features familiar to anyone who has driven the hugely popular hatchback, but with the extra versatility of an estate which will add to the appeal for family or business users.

But it also adds the reassurance of a proven four wheel drive system which adds little weight and doesn't sap performance for those times when the going gets tough, whether it's winter weather, a muddy camp site or gymkhana field.

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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business directory

businesses for sale

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JAGUAR S TYPE 3.0 V6, 03 reg, 12 months MoT, seatrost Silver, cream leather, FSH, 6 speed automatic, £1,999 ono. Call 07949 776824.

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£1,295
07921888957

FIAT PUNTO 1200cc, petrol, 5-dr, 2002, blue metallic, 12 months MoT, excellent condition, 5675 ono. 01543 573130. 07802 694664.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6, MoT until June. Goodcondition, £1,000 ono. 07780 481861.

FORD KA 1.3 2005, MoT, Oct 15. Nice car, drives well, JVC cd player, power steering, 5550. 07570 466 779.

NISSAN MICRA 2000, 65,000 Miles, 2 owners 2 door, Silver, abs, MoT, metallic paint, pas, sunroof, Stereo, CD £550 ono 0773441625

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15/0358/FL Applicant: Cheryl McKinlay POR: Replacement boundary fence at increased height AT: 1 Belvidere Road, Walsall, WS1 3AU

15/0362/FL Maturity Homes Ltd POR: Minor amendment to permission 1/00763/FL for erection of 251 dwellings to substitute 12 x 2.5 storey 3 bed houses on plots 9-20 for 12 x 2.5 storey 4 bed houses (scheme previously amended by permissions 11/1364/FL, 13/1572/FL and 14/0189/FL). AT: FORMER SITE OF WALSALL DEPOT, NORFOLK PLACE, WALSALL

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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10 Personals

personal

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6 Property

properties wanted

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overseas property

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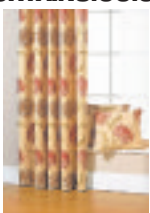
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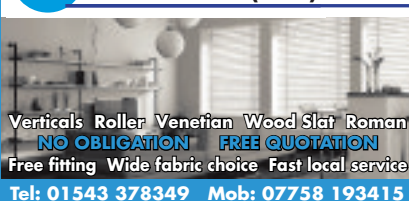
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Second meeting and still no goals to show

**Boldmere St Michaels 0
Walsall Wood 0**

THE teams have now met twice this year and haven't troubled the scoreboard in three hours of foot-ball.

Wood as in the game at Oak Park managed to miss a penalty, but a winner would have been unkind on the Mikes.

After a tight opening it was Wood who threatened first on eight minutes, Craig Deakin won the ball wide right, cut into the centre of the box through three tackles, Dominic Perkins with a superb challenge saving the home team's blushes.

Ben Wilkinson went on a left wing run on 39 minutes, his low cross found Agbonlahor who under pressure from Jamie Sauntson fired wide.

Five minutes into the second half Agbor took charge of a high, bouncing ball wide left, his lovely cross field ball picked out Wilkinson on the right of the box, to fire first time high over.

It was Agbor collecting the ball right of centre four minutes later powering through four tackles, his rising drive bringing a great save from Kisiel.

Back came Mikes when 2 minutes later a 35 yard free kick found Wilkinson on the left of the box, his low drive taken at full stretch by Kisiel.

Having had a breather Agbor made space wide left on 71 minutes, his ball inside found Wilkinson, Kisiel making another full length save. Then on 82 minutes sub Scott Cooper raced onto a ball inthe Mikes' box only to be sent tumbling from behind by Adam Robinson who was red carded.

The goals will come insists boss Smith

DEAN SMITH insists the goals will come for Walsall after they drew another blank at home to Notts County.

The 0-0 draw at the Banks's was the third game in succession the Saddlers have failed to find the net and they have scored just four times in the last 11 games.

But after watching his team squander a host of chances, including when Jordan Cook hit the bar and post in quick succession, boss Smith is convinced their luck will change sooner rather than later.

"You can't create that many chances and not score – goals will come," he said.

"It's not just happening at the moment – the players are certainly creating the chances and you just need a little bit of luck sometimes.

"Sometimes you need the goal-keeper to kick it in off your back or your backside and that just turns it around a little bit."

The manager denied his forward players might be lacking in confidence at present."

Seventh hell as Anchor are sunk by Inns

**Lichfield & Walsall District
Football League**

Premier

ANCHOR FC 0 New Inns FC 7

League One

Boney Hay 0 Pelsall Villa Colts 1
Dr.Johnson 3 Erdington Star 2

League Two

Eximius Warriors 4 G S Rockets 5
Oak Park Rangers 3 Qg FC 2

League Three

Burntwood Town Res. 2 Wych Elm FC 1

Green Rock Tav. 2 Bowman FC 0
Ros Park 0 Queens Head 1

DFL League Trophy - semi-final
ASP Victoria 4 Burntwood Star 1
Danny Donovan Cup - quarter final

Alma FC 9 Swan FC 10 aet &pen
Glen Skett Cup - semi final
Duke of Wellington 2 Q-Bar 4

Everything but the goal at Banks's

Walsall 0 Notts Co 0

DEAN Smith and his players, with some justification, will have left the Banks's Stadium feeling fate is conspiring against them after a performance which had everything but the goal.

But at some point you have to make your own luck and there is no hiding the fact this was a big opportunity missed to ease the worries of being dragged into a late season relegation dogfight.

Instead those fears remain and have intensified despite a display that was, compared to the two which preceded it at Chesterfield and at Wembley, a step in the right direction.

That is because the Saddlers, for whatever reason,

have forgotten how to score. Jordan Cook alone had enough chances to win several games but squandered them all, lobbing over in the opening seconds from a great position and then hitting post and bar from point-blank range within the space of a minute midway through the second half.

At such moments it it tough not to have sympathy with Smith, yet he must take overall responsibility for a record of just four goals in the last 11 games.

The most damning statistic is that, for all their dominance, it was the Saddlers' own keeper who was forced to make the most memorable saves.

Richard O'Donnell, in his 100th game for the club, preserved a point when he kept out efforts from

Liam Noble and Gary Jones late on. The nerves swirling around the Banks's at kick-off could have been eased within 26 seconds of the start as Cook missed a great chance to put the Saddlers ahead.

A dreadful back header by defender Haydn Hollis put the home forward clear on goal but his lob beat the post as well as keeper Roy Carroll.

The chances continued to come and go in the second half, only in more agonising fashion.

James Chambers saw a free header from a corner somehow deflect wide of the post before a mad minute midway through the half in which Cook – three times – was inches away from putting them ahead.

Saddlers were indebted to O'Donnell for two saves.

Disastrous day as Butts dominate

Barkers Butts 59 Walsall 17

THIS proved to be a disastrous day for the Walsall squad. They produced a performance that suggested some of their players were already looking forward to the end of the season.

But their opponents, in contrast, were a team who were keen to score points and get away from the relegation zone in Midlands One West.

The visitors struggled, throughout the game, to cope with the attacking intent shown by the Warwickshire team.

The strong wind blowing down the pitch seemed to suggest it would be a game of two halves. Therefore, although the hosts led 24-5 at the interval, Walsall had shown enough to suggest that, with the benefit of the slope and the wind, they could still get back into the game.

But within five minutes of the restart they conceded another two converted tries and that virtually sealed the win for the hosts.

Walsall had three injuries in the first 20 minutes which meant all three replacements were used, with some of them having to play in unacustomed positions.

Cracked

Flanker Jamie Hickman suffered a suspected broken hand, winger Jordan Lay had a suspected cracked rib and hooker Taric Tin sustained a knee injury.

The Walsall players also had major problems in trying to understand the referee's requirements in the tackle area.

This became such a problem that the team suffered an incredible four yellow cards during the game. This gave the hosts the extra space to successfully launch eight try scoring attacks, and with full back Josh Knight converting all eight and kicking a penalty, the score mounted rapidly.

Walsall had shown glimpses of their true potential with some good scrum and lineout plays, and a few defence-breaking runs were also made. But it was late in the first half before they scored their first try.

The score came after Tony Lay, Adam Ahmadani,Roger Weston,Liam Taylor and Paul Naylor had all made good ground before the ball was quickly recycled and Chris Mould gave a well delivered pass to Roger Weston.

The Walsall full back showed good speed and strength to break through the defence from 20 metres.

It seemed as if that score would give the vis-



Walsall's prop forward Simon Weaver makes a powerful burst during the match

itors the impetus to make a serious challenge during the second half. But, once again, their defensive frailties were exposed by a free running Butts team.

The visitors however, showed good character to score two late tries. The first came after some good lineout play that resulted in Paul Naylor picking up a loose ball and putting centre Richard Clarke over for a try which Weston converted. The final play saw prop forward, Ian Bradshaw, put out an impressive scrum

half pass to Liam Taylor who then made ground before putting winger Connor Pitt away for a try in the corner. The team had a rest over the Easter weekend.

Then they have their final home game of the season when they welcome Berkswell to Delves Road.

Walsall United put up a good display against the league winners Luctonians. The visitors scored late tries to secure a 30-5 victory.

Joe Lydon scored Walsall's try.

Fine show by Wood give them the points

Football

Wulfs started the second half trying to put the Wood defence under pressure but all they had to show for it was a 50th minutes effort when Richard Palmer's ball inside from wide right found Bood to fire in a low drive that brought another full length save from Kisiel.

Wood from that point took almost total control. Two minutes later Ben Evans won the ball in centre midfield and found Butlin, his first time low drive saved at full stretch by Tipton.

Capitalised

The keeper was a spectator a minute later when Butlin capitalised on a misplaced pass, his rising drive from 35 yards coming back off the right hand post, Evans first to the loose ball, his shot deflected for a corner that was easily cleared.

With 60 minutes gone Deakin ran at the right of the defence, played the ball inside to Butlin, who had his low drive blocked.

A rare Wulfs attack three minutes later saw Brown run at the Wood defence and set up Bood on

the right of the six-yard box, Kisiel with a superb point blank save.

Four minutes after Wood wrapped up the three points when Butlin powered a header home from a right wing corner.

To their credit the home side kept trying to take the game to Wood and on 70 minutes Jordan Perks released Brown into the right of the box to fire a cross shot wide.

Curriethers won a left wing corner, Tipton punched the ball away from Shawn Boothe but only out to Anthony Juxon on 25 yards, the keeper flying to his left to keep out the rising drive.

On 85 minutes Perks raced onto a ball into the left of the box, cut inside his marker and his low drive was deflected wide.

Then three minutes later the hardworking Brown won a ball over the top and his slide rule ball opened up the Wood defence to allow Perks to race onto a ball through the centre only to hit a first-time effort wide.

A superb all round team performance by Wood, who played some of their best football of the season to record another away victory. Wood have caught Long Eaton Utd on 66 points, but stay 5th on GD.

Bloxwich come out on top in friendly

**Bloxwich RFC 34
Rugeley RFC 10**

BLOXWICH RFC welcomed, a strong up and coming Rugeley XV to King George's for an Easter friendly.

The home side started brightly- were rewarded with an early try, when quick-thinking at the base of a ruck by scrum half Martin Maclean put big Jack Hunt in through a gap on the blindside.

A crunching tackle led to a turnover for Bloxwich, and Jamie Parkes gave the home side their second score under the posts.

A combination of forward and backs moved the ball well and at pace to send winger G Maclean flying into the corner for another try. The second half started with Bloxwich on the front foot. However, Bloxwich made errors, and Rugeley took full advantage by pouncing on a loose ball to storm 80 yards for their first score.

Yet again when opportunity begged the ball spilled from a ruck and Rugeley reacted quicker, and with some quick hands made Bloxwich pay the full price again by running in under the posts to make the score 15-10.

Feeling the pressure Rugeley started to concede more penalties, and right near the goal line, skipper Richard Geary seized the opportunity to take a quick penalty and ducked under a couple of tackles to score. Bloxwich went in for another try after a clever chip over the top was gathered and touched down by M Maclean.

J Hunt collected a brace of tries, using his power he broke though tacklers to finish off a 20 yard dash. With the try converted the score finished 34-10.

A double for Williams gives Pics the points

Skelmersdale 1 Rushall 2

TWO first-half goals from Aaron Williams helped Rushall Olympic to a 2-1 win at Skelmersdale.

Williams, who is now the Evo-Stik North Premier top scorer with 24, struck after just nine minutes by evading Robbie McIntosh and driving a low shot in past Steven James.

Amido Cande headed over for Skelmersdale but Williams notched again after 26 minutes, this time turning in Jake Heath's cross with his chest.

Skem substitute Danny Mitchley hit a post and skipper McIntosh got a goal back, but the Pics held on.

Ryan Price produced a great save from Benjamin Tollitt's shot to ensure his side went in at the break two goals to the good.

Skelmersdale substitute, Danny Mitchley, hit the foot of the post with a swinging volley as the hosts pushed for a goal.

They managed to get one back through captain, McIntosh, after 74 minutes but Pics held strong.

Georgia grabs a ton but can't save England

WOLVERHAMPTON all-round-er Georgia Elwiss fired a quickfire hundred but could not save England Women's Academy cricketers from defeat to Australia's 'Shooting Stars' in Dubai. Elwiss reached 100 from 80 balls as England posted 252 all out in 45 of their 50 overs. But Australia came out on top winning by four wickets with seven deliveries to spare.

Elwiss said: "We ended up 30-50 runs short of what we could have got, which was a bit annoying and probably cost us towards the end, but they battled well in the middle and took the game away from us.

"I look to play quite conservatively early on.

"I went in when we'd lost a couple of quick wickets and I knew there was still a lot of time to bat."

Sport

Everything but
the goal for Smith
Page 43

Disastrous day as
Butts dominate
Page 43



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Sawyers told to up his goal levels

DEAN SMITH has called on Romaine Sawyers to help ease Walsall's scoring woes – even if it means they lose him in the long run.

The Saddlers boss believes the forward's lack of goals is the only thing keeping him at the Banks's.

Sawyers has netted just four times this season, with his last goal coming more than four months ago.

And Smith believes if those figures improve, it will not be long before suitors from the Championship and above start to take an interest in the former Albion youngster.

"His performance levels have been excellent and I think the reason he is still with us is he has not scored many goals," said the Saddlers boss.

"If he scores more goals he is a top, top player."

"I have said before he is the player most other managers pick out when they come in after every game."

"If he adds to his performances, goals and assists, he will be one who will become a very valuable asset for this club."

"He knows he needs to score more goals. He has started to get into more advanced positions and he has had more efforts on goal in the last few games."

Sawyers is not the only Saddlers player who has struggled to hit the target with regularity of late.

Since the turn of the year, on loan Manchester City youngster Jordy Hiwula is their top scorer with four goals.

Jordan Cook has just one, while 16-goal frontman Tom Bradshaw has added only two to his total after being continually sidelined with hamstring trouble.

Winger Kieron Morris has meanwhile promised to make the most of his chance following a surprise recall from loan.

Lockmen boost survival hopes with much-needed win

Pegasus Jrs 2 Willenhall 3

WILLENHALL claimed three precious points in their survival battle with a dramatic win over Pegasus Juniors in the West Midlands Premier.

The Lockmen appeared to have the match wrapped up until Juniors substitute Jamie Cuthbertson pounced on a wayward header to fire an equaliser past Ben Holden two minutes into stoppage time.

But Willenhall promptly went up the other end to win the game when Eddie Wilson and Callum Foster combined to set up Craig Sudlow to smash a shot into the roof of the net.

The Lockmen had taken an eighth minute lead when Foster danced around two players before smacking the ball into the corner from a tight angle.

Juniors gained an equaliser from their first attack when they forced a 21st minute corner and Sam Pearson was left unattended eight yards out to score.

But Willenhall regained the lead when Tom Turner curled a free-kick into the penalty area and skipper Paul Holden rose to loop a header into the top corner.

Willenhall climb to 18th in the table.

Khalsa take title with seven games spare

Gornal Athletic 0 Sporting Khalsa 3

SPORTING Khalsa wrapped up the league championship with seven games to spare by turning over third-placed Gornal.

A probing Danny Crudgington free kick into the Khalsa box on six minutes was punched out by keeper James Pemberton but only as far as Carl Martin who volleyed over.

Khalsa took the lead on 22 minutes when a hesitant Gornal defence and the chaotic presence of Simeon Townsend and Tes Robinson saw the ball bounce around, off limbs, off a post and, finally, into the net via the toe of Townsend.

Football

Robinson forced Gornal keeper Rich Kennedy into action on 29 minutes, a Tim Jackson free kick headed well but comfortably saved.

Just before the break, Carlo Franco's shot was parried well by Kennedy before Matt Vaughan produced excellent blocks to deny first Marvin Nisbett and then Chris Rabone.

The game saw a comedy moment on 53 minutes to essentially seal the win and the title for Khalsa as Kennedy dilly dallied on the ball despite the looming arrival of Craig Bannister and

tamely gifted the striker his 31st goal of the season. Dreniz Bala had Gornal's best chance on 61 minutes, picking up the ball in the box and turning first Robinson and then Joe Rogers before scuffing his shot at Pemberton in a dangerous position.

Khalsa grabbed a third on 64 minutes after excellent work down the right by Nisbett which saw a cross lofted into the centre for substitute Brad Lawley to nod home and sparking jubilant scenes in the away dug-out.

The final stages saw no real clear cut chances as Khalsa coasted comfortably towards the finish line, except a long-range effort by Franco.

SADDLERS STILL CAN'T SCORE

Peterborough 0 Walsall 0

THOSE hoping for a swift resolution to Walsall's flirtation with relegation are likely to be disappointed.

The Saddlers are inching along as an almighty scrap against the drop closes in on their heels.

This draw at Peterborough saw them gain a place – to 15th – but also fall to within two points of the danger zone with just three weeks of the season to go.

Performances, at least the last two, might give manager Dean Smith cause for some comfort were it not for their continued trouble scoring goals.

It is now more than six hours since their last and a speedy escape from trouble is unlikely while they remain unable to make the most of their attacking play.

In terms of narrative, this game followed an eerily similar path to Friday's stalemate with Notts County as the Saddlers enjoyed by some distance the greater possession and held the upper hand for long periods.

But just as Roy Carroll was rarely exerted at the Banks's, here home keeper Ben Alnwick was allowed an easy life as time and again good chances flashed the wrong side of the post.

Conviction

With more conviction, the Saddlers might have taken six points from their Bank Holiday double.

Instead, two huge games – both at home – now await Smith's men in the next week against Fleetwood and Crawley, the latter of which is now a genuine six-pointer. It was an all too familiar feeling in the first half at London Road as the Saddlers enjoyed plenty of possession and the better of chances without making the breakthrough.

Jordan Cook was the first to go close with a curling effort from the edge of the box, before Michael Cain – having earlier fired over from a corner – thumped a delicious volley into the same advertising hoarding.

Cain would go close again after being teed up by Sawyers on the edge of the box, while Jordy Hiwula and the lively Kieron Morris also saw openings come and go as the Saddlers pushed and



Michael Cain saw a number of efforts drift off target in another goalless Walsall performance

probed without success. Instead, just as it was on Friday, it was O'Donnell who was called into the only taxing work of the half when he pushed away a rasping drive from David Norris.

Luke James also drilled an effort across the face of the visiting goal but they were rare moments in an otherwise solid defensive performance from Walsall.

When Marcus Maddison went close to opening the scoring for the hosts early in the second half it was entirely unintentional, as his mis-hit cross threatened to creep in at the far post and O'Donnell did well to push the ball behind.

Cain sent a dipping free-kick inches wide of the

post at the other end, yet while the Saddlers continued to boss proceedings they were struggling to seriously test Alnwick as a series of bright openings came and went.

The final 20 minutes brought an inevitable improvement from the hosts. Harry Anderson fired in a shot which O'Donnell was forced to beat away at the near post.

Cook finally gave Alnwick a headache after briefly escaping his marker and stabbing a shot at goal.

It was impossible not to feel the Saddlers might pay for failing to make one of their chances count – but Smith's men took a point.

Johns' shot proves to be decisive one

FC Stafford 1 Darlston Town 0

A fine goal by Jasper Johns settled this meeting of two West Midlands Division Two title contenders.

Darlston started brightly and went close after just seven minutes, a shot flying just wide.

Stafford were struggling to find their passing rhythm, although Martyn Wheeler linked up with Thomas Duffy who pulled the ball across goal for Andy Willacy who couldn't adjust his feet to tap it home.

Darlston responded at Stafford keeper Steve McCabe twice saved well.

The only goal came from the game's best move. George Kirkland's fine pass was met by Wheeler who burst into the opposition third.

Wheeler in turn laid the ball off to Jasper Johns 12 yards out and he switched it to his left foot before passing the ball into the far corner of the net.

Darlston pinned Stafford back for the remainder of the half, but without success.

The home side managed to assert some control in midfield during the second period, but again the visitors pressed although Stafford were a threat on the counter.

Stafford survived a scare with just two minutes left when Darlston hit the bar and then held on to the whistle.

Stafford raised their game after the break as Matt Bickley and Josh Anderson supported Wheeler in central midfield as they started to assert some control and it would be they who would create the best chances of the second half early on.

Duffy after wriggling free of the attentions of the central defenders unfortunately scuffed his effort wide.

Premier place is Jackett's focus

KENNY Jackett insists Wolves can be Premier League regulars and urges Molineux to roar his team towards the play-offs.

Jackett believes Wolves can become an established top-flight club if they force their way into the Championship play-offs and win promotion this season.

And he has challenged his side to use the Molineux support to their advantage.

He said: "It is a fantastic club which has the potential to be in the Premier League – but that doesn't make it a given that you get in there because you have to earn it in football."

"But Wolves have Premier League potential."

★★★

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